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SHOULD BE USED IN PREFERENCE TO  
EXTRACT OF MEAT.  
BECAUSE Extract of Meat contains NO nutri-  
ment, and is a mere stimulant.  
BECAUSE BOUILLON FLEET being a judicious  
combination of Kneass's Extract of Beef and  
Peppermint, is a most stimulating and also  
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BECAUSE the nutritive value of all articles of  
Food depends chiefly upon Peppermint, and  
according to analysis by Dr. Clark, Public  
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**BOUILLON FLEET**  
Contains—PEPTONE 175  
Soluble Albumen 175  
BECAUSE BOUILLON FLEET is far more  
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Of all Grocers, Chemists, Licensed Vendors  
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J. B. B. & CO.,  
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SAMPSON TOWN TO ANY ADDRESS IN TOWN OR  
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# The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

**ASPINAL'S ENAMEL.**  
ASPINAL'S ENAMES  
Treasures of former days, and bygone fairs,  
Which we need, to all appearance, past recall,  
I've read over from the den of dust and gloom,  
That great peripatetic lumber-room,  
And now, they glow and gladden, side by side  
With sister arts, in all their former pride.  
There is a clearly brighter, more robust, and  
By the preceding genius, ASPINAL'S.  
**ASPINAL'S ENAMEL.**  
SOLD IN TINS IN OVER 100 COLOURS  
EVERYWHERE, or Post Free,  
In 6d. and 1s. (for 6d. and 1s. and  
2s. 6d.), from  
**ASPINAL'S ENAMEL WORKS**  
LONDON.  
ASPINAL'S ENAMEL, ASPINAL'S ENAMEL

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**THIRD EDITION.**  
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE.  
Saturday Evening.

## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

### THE SITUATION AT SUAKIN.

Osman Digma Preparing for Flight.  
The Tribes Tired of War.

Another cavalry reconnaissance from Suakin was made on Wednesday. The Hussars and Mounted Infantry went out towards Haashen, and upon their way back rode through Tokrik. This is the longest patrol that has yet been made. They met with no enemy on their route, and the general opinion is that the dervishes have fallen back for some distance, and will not again approach this neighbourhood until they learn that the bulk of the troops have left Suakin. One prisoner—who, however, was coming in—was taken, and two deserters arrived in camp. They report that there are a large number of wounded at Handoub, and that Osman Digma is sending away his women to Erkowit, preparatory to "bolting" towards the Nile. The local sheikhs, a correspondent says, are again pressing strongly for an advance by our troops to Handoub. The chief of the Gallaabab, if we will make this movement, to co-operate with thousands of warriors, and promise that if once driven off, Osman Digma shall never again be allowed to return. All their people, they declare, are tired of war, and want trade to be reopened, but they are afraid of the organised band of dervishes.

**THE INDIAN NATIVE CONGRESS.**  
ALLAHABAD, December 27.—After preliminary meetings at Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras, the Native Congress assembled here yesterday in a large park, where a hall to contain 3,000 people had been specially erected. Over 1,000 delegates from every part of India, including a great number of Mahomedans, were present. At Lucknow an immense procession of delegates and delegates to the railway station, and demonstrations were also made at other places on the departure of the delegates for Allahabad. Rajah Sirva Prasad, hitherto the ally of Sir Syed Ahmed, was elected as representative of Benares. Mr. George Yule, a merchant of Calcutta, and ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce, was elected president of the congress on the motion of Sirdar Dyal Singh, the premier Sikh noble of the Punjab, in the absence of the Maharajah Durbanga through illness. The president's inaugural address, and the absence of the present system of government and the absence of free discussion or control over the Budget charges. The speaker dealt exhaustively with the proposed reconstruction of the Legislative Councils, declaring that, as regarded an increase in the number of members, perfect unanimity of opinion prevailed, the non-official Europeans agreeing with the Indians on this point. He reminded his hearers that the late Lord Beaconsfield in 1858 suggested the election of the members of the Indian Council as a safeguard for Indian interests. The present position of affairs, the Indian Council in London had no power, while the House of Commons possessed power, but he begged to exercise it. He claimed that the concession asked was moderate—namely, that half the members of the Legislative Council should be elected, and the remainder nominated by the Government; one-fourth being officials, would remain with the executive, but he desired the establishment of a right of interpellation. The only parallel to be found in English history was 600 years ago, when Edward I., the barons, and the Commons sat together, the King and the barons holding sway, the Commons being willing to leave the settlement of the details to a committee of three official Europeans and three Indian natives. Referring to the speech delivered by the Marquis of Dufferin at Calcutta on St. Andrew's Day, Mr. Yule declared that his lordship spoke with an imperfect knowledge of the facts. The proposed reform would have the effect of uniting England and India by the flexible and enduring ligaments of common interest, common duties, and common service. The speech was received with applause. Great enthusiasm prevailed throughout the proceedings, and cheers were given for the Empress of India. Portraits of her Majesty were displayed at the entrance of the park and in prominent places in the hall. The discussion of the various matters before the congress will continue to-day, and will last three days.

### DESPERATE GLOVE FIGHT IN AMERICA.

An Alarming Accident.

NEW YORK, December 27.—The prize fight arranged some time ago between Jack McAuliffe, champion light weight of America, and Jake Hyams, who claims a like title in England, was brought off at Brooklyn last night. The fight was under Queensbury rules, and it was agreed that the winner should take the gate money. McAuliffe's weight was 135lbs., while Hyams turned the scale at 139lbs. Six-ounce gloves were used. McAuliffe forced the fighting from the start, and secured the first knock-down in the second round. Hyams responded gamely during the first few rounds, and landed some stinging blows on his opponent's body, but after the fourth round he acted mostly on the defensive, and McAuliffe gained most of the fifth. Hyams began to weaken during the seventh round, and in the eighth McAuliffe gained a very decided advantage, securing six knock-downs. At this point the police ordered the fight to be stopped, but their officer was prevailed upon to allow it to proceed, and fighting was continued. Hyams was "groggy" in the ninth, while he was scored three times and knocked down in the tenth and last round. The fight was accordingly awarded to McAuliffe, who was hardily marked. The only genuine hard fighting was during the second, third, eighth, and ninth rounds. An alarming accident, which occasioned the greatest excitement, occurred during the eighth round. Suddenly a part of the gallery collapsed, and many of the people were thrown to the ground, several of them being injured.

### THE EARL OF DUFFERIN.

BRISTOL, December 27.—Lord Dufferin, late Viceroy of India, arrived here from the East this morning with Lady Dufferin and family. His excellency left at nine o'clock for Naples.

Friday night's Gazette officially announces that Lord Dufferin has been appointed British am-

### EXPLOSION IN A POWDER MAGAZINE.

Sixteen Soldiers Killed and Several Injured.

ROME, December 27.—A telegram from Messina states that while a quantity of projectiles were being stored in the magazine of the arsenal there a number of them exploded, causing serious damage.

DECEMBER 28.—Further particulars regarding the explosion near Messina state that it occurred in a powder magazine at one of the forts in the neighbourhood, in consequence of the bursting of a shell, and that it was attended by serious loss of life. Sixteen soldiers were killed and several others injured. Among the dead is Captain Demanzoni, whose wife is also stated to have perished.

### AMERICAN TARIFF REFORM LEAGUE.

NEW YORK, December 29.—At a dinner held last night by the Tariff Reform League at Boston, a letter of regret was read from President Cleveland stating his inability to be present. In his letter he reiterated the importance of tariff reform, which he was convinced was as far reaching in its purposes as the destiny of the country, and as broad in its beneficence as any scheme ever formulated for the welfare of the people. Senator Fairchild and other democratic leaders spoke in favour of the measure.

### UNITED STATES WOOL MARKET.

NEW YORK, December 29.—The Boston Commercial Bulletin, containing the annual report of the United States Wool Market, has just been issued. For the present year, the supply amounts to 60,000,000lbs., as compared with 110,000,000lbs. in 1887.

### CAPTURE OF A NOTED BRIGAND.

NEW YORK, December 29.—The New York police have succeeded in capturing the notorious Dinardo, the brigand who murdered the Marquis di Sanduzzi in 1866.

### AN INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FIGHT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Last night Jackson, the coloured champion pugilist of Australia, met Joe McAuliffe, the champion pugilist of the Pacific Coast, in a fight to a finish. The match was looked forward to with a great deal of interest. McAuliffe being considered by his friends equal to either Kilrain or Sullivan. The fight was brought off without interruption before a select audience. Jackson appeared the cleverer, from the start, and proved himself a tremendously hard hitter. He had the best of the exchanges throughout, and although McAuliffe struggled gamely he was evidently no match for the Australian. Altogether twenty-four hard rounds were fought, when Jackson was proclaimed the victor. Jackson is anxious to meet either Kilrain or Sullivan in a fight to a finish, if these pugilists can overcome their scruples to meet a man of colour.

### MR. BRIGHT'S RECOVERY.

Mr. Bright was on Friday again able to sit up in his chair. The family regard his recovery as somewhat marvellous, considering the dangerous period he has passed through. On inquiry at One Ash on Saturday morning, a reporter was informed that Mr. Bright had passed a good night, and was a little better.

### SIR WILLIAM JENNER.

On inquiry on Saturday morning at 9, Brook-street, it was ascertained that Sir William Jenner was a little better, and had passed a good night.

### SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST AN OMNIBUS CONDUCTOR.

Richard Primos, 56, Rosebery-place, Dalston-lane, a conductor in the employ of the London General Omnibus Company, was charged at the Dalston Police Court on Friday with stealing a sovereign, the property of Thomas Byrne, a warehouseman, of Kingsgate-street, Holborn.—The householder said that he and his wife and brother and sister-in-law, had been to the Crystal Palace on the previous day, and at Shoreditch Church the four of them got on to a bus for Dalston, the fare for which journey is 1d. Witness gave the conductor what he thought was a shilling for the four fares, and received 6d. in silver and 2d. bronze as change. Witness said at the time he gave the coin 23 10s. in gold mixed with his silver and copper, and he almost immediately discovered himself a sovereign. The latter called one of the bus inspectors, and allowed his money pouch to be searched, but the sovereign was not found. In a purse, however, which the conductor had in another pocket was 25 in gold, and this, he said, partially belonged to the company and partially to himself.—Mr. Montagu Williams questioned the prosecutor as to some length, and elicited that the latter was positive as to the money he had in his pocket when he left home at two o'clock in the afternoon, and further that he had not spent any money all day, and that the fact that his brother-in-law had some "captain," and the final settling up was to follow.—The prisoner, in his defence, said that he did not have a sovereign found from the prosecutor, or it would have been found amongst the silver in his pouch. He cross-examined the prosecutor, and the latter denied saying "That is my shilling" when he (the prisoner) was giving the change, and prosecutor also accounted for paying now, by the fact that he was sitting during the day, and the latter (the prisoner) nearest the conductor.—Mr. Montagu Williams told prisoner that his difficulty was this—he would have to account for the 25 in gold found in the purse.—Prisoner: I had 23 10s. in gold when I started; I got 21 10s. gold for silver at the Crown and Castle at dinner time, and another sovereign at the De Beauvoir at night time.—An inspector in the employ of the company produced the 23 10s. 6d. of the money found when the accused belonged to the company, and upon the further said he had had the man under his observation for the past three years and had no complaints.—Mr. Montagu Williams said he should like to hear what prosecutor's brother-in-law had to say in the matter, but his present impression was that it was a case which he could not withdraw from a jury. Prisoner would be remanded till January 24th, and 410 accepted as bail for his appearance.

The Commercial Travellers' Christian Association held their sixteenth annual meeting on Friday at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street. The programme comprised a devotional service, a conversation, and a general meeting, at which the annual business was transacted, but at the end of which there was an informal conference, when some interesting anecdotes were related by

### THE EXECUTION OF PRADO.

The criminal known by the name of Prado, and condemned to death for the murder of Marie Agénat, was executed by guillotine on Friday morning at Paris. In the certificate of death drawn up by the mayor after the execution the criminal is described as "the supposed Linaka de Castillon, Louis Frederic, alias Stanislas, alias Prado di Mendoza, supposed to have been born on May 19th, 1854; parents unknown." It was, it is said, not without hesitation that President Carnot rejected the appeal for mercy in favour of the condemned man. Meanwhile Prado was falling into a state of great nervous excitement, which even his strong will could not conceal. It was two o'clock on Thursday night before he threw himself on his prison bed and slept soundly. He had been feverishly writing since early in the evening, and seemed to be thoroughly exhausted. Before midnight the fact that he would be executed in the morning had spread all over Paris, but at three o'clock in the morning comparatively few people had assembled on the Place de la Roquette. The throng later on increased into a dense crowd, composed, for the most part, of the dregs of the population, but in which were a few respectable people. When the guillotine had been erected it seemed as if all the back slums and thieves' haunts in Paris had poured forth their worst characters, who were struggling to get to the front. At six o'clock those whose duty it was to be present had assembled in the parlour of the governor of La Roquette. At eighteen minutes past seven these officials presented themselves in the cell, where Prado was still sleeping. M. Beauquesne, governor of the prison, awoke him with the announcement that his appeal for mercy had been rejected. The convict, sitting up, said without emotion, "Bien," and immediately began to dress. He refused all assistance. While thus occupied the chaplain approached him and advised him to take something to sustain his courage. Prado exclaimed, "Courage! I shall have as much as you. Why you are already more moved than I." Noticing the letters he had written the previous evening, Prado tore them up and the pieces were burned in his presence. "I am done," he said, "gentlemen, I am at your disposal." He was forthwith led to the salle de la toilette, where he was prepared by the executioner and his assistants. When his feet were being shackled he begged that sufficient length of rope should be left to permit him to walk freely. Abbé Faure approached Prado again, asking whether he had no messages to send to any of his family or friends. "Yes," he replied, "tell Maurice and Courment that I can find her, she is a more wretched creature than Marie Forester, because she has caused the head of her child's father to roll on the scaffold. She will be able to place that head in her 'corbeille de nocces.' Thereupon, he gave Abbé Faure the portrait of his child, asking him to keep it. As the abbé took that opportunity to try once more to speak to him of God, Prado stopped him, saying, "Oh, Monsieur l'abbé, do not let us talk of religion and God. I don't believe in the existence of a God, who has not exterminated me from my difficult situation." The priest asked whether he would not kiss the crucifix. Prado understood that Abbé Faure wished to kiss him, and presented his face to the good man, saying, "Certainly, if it is any pleasure to you." Abbé Faure kissed him on both cheeks. In reply to the question whether he had any last wishes to make known, which was accompanied by the assurance that they should be carried out, Prado said:—"First of all, I desire you (the abbé) will not walk beside me when I am going to the scaffold. Then I earnestly request that my body may be buried at once, and not be subjected to the indignities of the medical faculty. I entrust Abbé Faure and M. Goron with the duty of seeing that this wish is complied with." The priest replied, "It shall be done." After these words the march to the scaffold commenced. The heavy prison gates were thrown open, and Prado appeared, surrounded by the executioner's aids. The hush and the murmur of curiosity in the crowd were sufficient to cause emotion in any one. The great majority of the men bared their heads, as they always do in France when they meet a funeral procession. The condemned man advanced but provisionally for the cord by which his legs were bound was too short to allow him taking any but short steps. He cast round him a rapid glance, and then looked down. He was now deadly pale. For a moment his lips quivered as if he was about to speak, but he said nothing, and, uttering, had to be supported. Standing before the fatal instrument, the poor wretch had more than time enough to see all the apparatus of death, for the gibbet made no haste. Forty seconds' least passed while the condemnation became terrible to look at; it was absolutely livid, and the features were distorted with mental agony. He made efforts to speak, but could not articulate a word. Even the degraded public shuddered with horror. At last the arrangements were completed, and the sentence of the law was carried out at thirty-two minutes past seven o'clock. The remains were taken to the Irvy Cemetery. At the gate the hearse was stopped by Doctor Fother and De la Houssaye, who claimed the body on the name of the Faculty of Medicine; but Abbé Faure and M. Goron interposed, and the medical gentlemen, on learning that Prado had begged that his body might not be subjected to medical experiments, were content to forego their right, and the corpse was at once interred.

### WIFE MURDER AT SUNDEFLAND.

William Rigg, a foreman, was committed for trial at Sunderland on Friday for the wilful murder of his wife. The prisoner had previously been imprisoned for two months for assaulting a woman, and this appears to have been his last straw. His wife was found to be dead, and her throat was partially cut, and she died from pressure of blood on the brain.

### PUGILISTIC FOOTBALL PLAYERS.

Robert Buchanan, residing at 10, St. Andrew's, and a member of the Paisley Athletic Club, and Alexander Lochhead, a member of the 3rd Lanark Club, were charged at Glasgow on Friday with fighting with each other on the 23rd of December, which was witnessed by 5,000 persons. The match, which was fought on the 23rd, was not fought, and fined Buchanan 20s. or thirty days' imprisonment, and Lochhead 20s. or twenty days' imprisonment.

### IT IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY PROBABLE THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE RENT DISPUTE ON THE PENNSYLVANIA ESTATE AT MITCHELSTOWN, WHERE THE "PENNSYLVANIA" WAS ADOPED TWO YEARS AGO, WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ARRIVED AT.

### FIGHTING AT ZANZIBAR.

Slaughter of Natives.

A correspondent at Zanzibar, telegraphing on Wednesday, says:—More desultory fighting is reported from Bagamoyo. The Germans landed men from their ships, and the usual slaughter of natives followed. News has arrived through Unyanyembe that M'wanga has been deposed and driven from Uganda by his brother, who rules instead. The Agammon has left to replace the Boadicea in the blockading line.

### THE ALLEGED LOTTERY SWINDLE IN THE WEST-END.

At Marlborough-street Police-court on Friday, a man who gave the name of William Molyneux, a clerk, was charged with being concerned in opening an office for a lottery, in contravention of the Lottery Act.—Complaints had for some time past been made to the police by publicans and others of the existence of a lottery in Duke-street, Grosvenor-square, under the guise of the Licensed Victuallers' Mutual Benefit Society. As no such society was found to have been registered, Police-constable Rolfe was sent to the house, and there he saw prisoner on the first floor. The constable bought a book of tickets for 21 on commission, and was to pay for it when they were all sold, otherwise the holders could not participate in the draw. The lottery was to have come off on the 22nd, but the police by their action stopped it, as also thousands of letters addressed to the house as they arrived ready for delivery by post. Cases of gosses forwarded from the country were likewise detained.—On the remand on the 21st inst., Mr. St. John Wortner, who prosecuted, said that the police had inspected the books and papers found at the house. Counterfoils showed receipts to the amount of £700. In a ledger were entries to the extent of £416. The numbers in the books found only went up to 23,000, whereas the numbers in the single book purchased by the constable were as high as 43,000, showing that all the documents relating to the lottery had not been discovered. A sham newspaper had been started for the purpose of puffing the lottery and promoting the scheme.—Detective-inspector Stroud said that he found 109 books of tickets addressed, as if returned to the society. From fifty of them tickets had been sold. There were also 200 books in their original state, and the same number of tickets, which evidently had contained money, and which had been addressed to publicans all over England, were ready to be despatched. The book purchased by the constable showed numbers up to 43,000. A ledger contained the numbers of tickets alphabetically to the letter L, and set out in the money columns were amounts up to £416. There was a card bearing the name "Walter H. Molyneux, 56, Elgin-crescent, Notting Hill," and that had been ascertained to be the address of the prisoner's mother. The room was littered with torn-up correspondence and loose counterfoils. About three bushels of torn correspondence was discovered in a heap. As many as 350 copies of a newspaper entitled the Licensed Victuallers' Sportsman, first issue, dated 8th December, were in the room, as also a rent-book in the name of Gaston Foster, commencing on the 8th of October, two rooms at 10s. per week.—Mr. E. Road, an overseer from the General Post Office, said that since the proceedings by the police all letters and books addressed to the society had been detained. They had now in their possession 2,033 letters, fifty-one taxed or over-weighted letters, ten postcards, 181 books of tickets, five taxed books, ninety-seven registered letters—altogether 2,377.—Mr. W. J. Bartrum, of the Black Bull, Finsbury-road, said that he forwarded 20s. for a book of tickets, and one was sent to him by post.—Mrs. Constance Brind, of the Montpelier Arms, Brompton, gave similar evidence.—Mr. Wallis, for the defence, applied for a remand on the ground that the prisoner's witnesses were not prepared to come forward at present. The prisoner, he should be able to show, had merely acted as a clerk to the man Foster, and had only been three weeks in his employ when he was arrested. He was a respectable man, and had no interest in the scheme except as an employee. He asked that the prisoner might be remanded and allowed bail.—Mr. W. Wortner proposed to money the books, and not find any objection to bail. The police could not find any one connected with the offices but the prisoner, said that he was who sold the book. It was clear that he had been taking an active part in the lottery.—The prisoner said that if he was released on bail he believed he could find Foster, but he could not do so if he was locked up.—The accused was remanded for a week, bail being refused.

### THE SUDDEN DEATH OF A "LION COMIQUE"—INQUEST.

Mr. Troubeck held an inquest on Friday at St. George's Hospital on the body of Alfred Peck Stevens, known on the music-hall stage as Alfred Glenville Vance, who was seized with sudden illness while performing at the Sun Music Hall, Knightsbridge, on Boxing Night, and died shortly afterwards.—The evidence was to the effect that Mr. Vance, who lived in the Vauxhall Bridge-road, was about 35 years of age. On Wednesday night he sang three verses of his third song at the Sun, when he suddenly left the stage and sank down. His head was batted, medical assistance was sent for, and eventually he was removed in a state of insensibility to St. George's Hospital; but when the cab reached that institution he was dead. These facts were spoken to by a number of witnesses, among them being Mr. de Chastelain, director of the Sun Music Hall, and in excellent spirits.—Richard Lazarus Warner, Mr. Vance's business agent, who caught him as he fell, explained a slight scratch which had attracted the notice of the jury while they were viewing the body by saying that the deceased struck his face slightly against a partition behind the stage. This witness knew nothing as to Mr. Vance ever having had a similar illness; but Mr. Wake, proprietor of the Standard Music Hall, said that while the deceased was dining with him about two months ago he was attacked by a fit. It appeared serious, but he soon recovered, and then said that he had never been subject to similar seizures.—Mr. Comerford, one of the house surgeons at St. George's Hospital, stated that Mr. Vance was dead when brought there on Wednesday night. A post mortem examination showed that heart disease existed, and death was due to failure of the heart's action.—A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

### CRICKET AT CAPE TOWN.

At Cape Town on Friday the English cricketers brought their match against fifteen of Cape Colony to a close. In their first innings the visitors scored 122, and in their second, 162; whilst the totals of the home players were 159 and 114. The Englishmen thus won by 11 runs.

### A FATAL AFFRAY.

A shocking occurrence is reported from Merthyr Tydfil, near Merthyr Tydfil. On Thursday night, Richard Roberts, a man from Tarnarvon, who lodged at 27, Taff-street, quarrelled with another lodger, Richard Evans, the landlord, who was in bed, overheard some of the remarks made, and thinking they referred to himself and his wife, jumped out of bed and chased Roberts into the street. George Powell and his wife, at the next house but one, hearing thuds against the front wall of their house, ran out and saw Evans, clad only in his shirt, labouring Roberts, who was afterwards dragged into the road. Roberts was then taken back into Evans's house, and the neighbours sent for a policeman. A doctor's assistant was also sent for, but the injured man expired. Evans was taken into custody.

### A TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN IN TROUBLE.

A ticket-of-leave man, named Alexander Thompson, who has been employed at the North Bridge, was convicted on Thursday, before Sheriff Davidson, at Dunfermline, of failing to report himself to the police in the district within the required time. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and to complete the period of seven years' penal servitude to which he had been sentenced, and which expires in the month of June next. Thompson is a notorious housebreaker, and has already suffered six days' imprisonment for breaking in a house. He states that he is a native of Ayr.

### AT A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD ON FRIDAY IN PARIS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ELECTION IN THE VASANT PARIS DISTRICT SHALL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 2ND.

At a Council of Ministers held on Friday in Paris, it was decided that the election in the Vasant Paris district shall take place on January 2nd.

### WAS IT JACK THE RIPPER?

Another Horrible Crime.

A murder, similar in its most prominent and ghastly details to the recent series of crimes in Whitechapel, was discovered on Saturday morning at Bradford. The victim is a boy aged 8, named John Gill, the son of a cabman, who lives in a thoroughfare known as Thorncliffe-road. The boy was last seen by his parents on Thursday night, when he was in the street playing with a number of his companions. Later he was seen talking with a milkman, but there was then nothing calculated to excite any suspicion. As the boy did not return home at night inquired, nothing on Friday respecting him, but nothing of a satisfactory nature could be obtained by his friends. At daybreak on Saturday the body of the poor lad, cut and mutilated in a most horrible manner, and in an entirely nude state, was found in an outhouse at the back of premises in Thorncliffe-road. The legs had been cut off near to the trunk, and were lying by the side of the body. Both ears had been sliced off, and the abdomen ripped open, and son of a man, notably, the heart had been torn from the body and placed near it upon the ground. There were also signs in the chest, and other forms of mutilation of a kind too sickening to be described. The boots had been taken off, and thrust ruthlessly into the body of the victim, and the whole appearances constituted a sickening spectacle. When the discovery was made the police were communicated with, and a large number of detectives were quickly on the spot, investigating the facts so far as they could be ascertained. They refused to supply any information to the Press, except to indicate a belief that they were in possession of a clue which was believed to be important. An examination of the building in which the body was found, showed that there was little or no blood near the corpse. This led to the assumption that the murder had been committed elsewhere, and the body conveyed to the outhouse either late on Friday or early on Saturday. The remains were wrapped in a coarse covering and might have been carried through the streets in this way. It is also said that the dismembered limbs were tied to the body by a piece of cord. Owing, however, to the reticence of the police, it is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information. The affair has created tremendous excitement throughout the town and district. The police are said to have a man in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the perpetration of the crime.

### ANOTHER REPORTED MURDER.

The Press Association says:—A report from Keighley on Saturday, states that a youth has been found murdered and mutilated at Kilwith, a village a few miles to the north-west of that place.

### THE POPLAR MYSTERY.

Mr. Charles Polomey, night attendant at Poplar Union, whose name has been mentioned as having seen two women accost the woman Mylett near where she was discovered dead, has received a visit from some officers of Scotland Yard. He says:—"They asked me if I could identify the sailors? I told them I could pick the men out of a thousand. How I came to notice them was in this way:—It was about five minutes to eight o'clock on Wednesday night, when I was going to my work. Upon going up England-row (near the opposite of Clarke's Yard) I noticed two sailors. The shorter one was speaking to the deceased, and the tall one was walking up and down. So strange did it seem that I stopped and 'took account' of them. Then I heard the woman say several times, 'No! no! no!' and the short sailor spoke in a low tone. The tall one was about 5ft. 11in. He looked like a Yankee. The shorter one was about 5ft. 7in. It struck me that they were there for no other purpose, and that was the reason I took so much notice of them. I shall always remember their faces, and could, as I say, pick them out of a thousand. I have been to the mortuary, and seen the deceased. She is the same woman, and she was sober when I saw her with the sailors."

### DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

Early on Saturday morning a disastrous fire broke out at the extensive warehouses of Messrs. W. G. Rowan and Co., drapers and clothiers, Grinnock, and before it was got under damage was done to the estimated amount of £12,000. The premises occupy a building of three storeys, and the conflagration occurred in the third floor, at Lower Grinnock, Manchester, and owned by the Crumple Spinning Company, was destroyed by fire on Saturday. The damage is estimated at several thousand pounds, but the loss is fully covered by insurance.

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At Cape Town on Friday the English cricketers brought their match against fifteen of Cape Colony to a close. In their first innings the visitors scored 122, and in their second, 162; whilst the totals of the home players were 159 and 114. The Englishmen thus won by 11 runs.

### A FATAL AFFRAY.

A shocking occurrence is reported from Merthyr Tydfil, near Merthyr Tydfil. On Thursday night, Richard Roberts, a man from Tarnarvon, who lodged at 27, Taff-street, quarrelled with another lodger, Richard Evans, the landlord, who was in bed, overheard some of the remarks made, and thinking they referred to himself and his wife, jumped out of bed and chased Roberts into the street. George Powell and his wife, at the next house but one, hearing thuds against the front wall of their house, ran out and saw Evans, clad only in his shirt, labouring Roberts, who was afterwards dragged into the road. Roberts was then taken back into Evans's house, and the neighbours sent for a policeman. A doctor's assistant was also sent for, but the injured man expired. Evans was taken into custody.

### A TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN IN TROUBLE.

A ticket-of-leave man, named Alexander Thompson, who has been employed at the North Bridge, was convicted on Thursday, before Sheriff Davidson, at Dunfermline, of failing to report himself to the police in the district within the required time. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and to complete the period of seven years' penal servitude to which he had been sentenced, and which expires in the month of June next. Thompson is a notorious housebreaker, and has already suffered six days' imprisonment for breaking in a house. He states that he is a native of Ayr.

### AT A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD ON FRIDAY IN PARIS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ELECTION IN THE VASANT PARIS DISTRICT SHALL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 2ND.

At a Council of Ministers held on Friday in Paris, it was decided that the election in the Vasant Paris district shall take place on January 2nd.







## THE MADMAN'S WIFE.

BY ELIE BERTHET.

(Translated from the French.)

## CHAPTER XII.

## THE MADHOUSE.

Some months had elapsed, and it seemed as if the favourable hopes entertained concerning Raymond Lalande were about to be realized. A complete and early cure was spoken of, and it was fully expected that the brilliant artist would soon be able to return to his studio.

Although still kept at the asylum at Passy, he appeared to be as calm and reasonable as he had ever been in his life. Legoff and Paul Bordier, the sight of whom at one time excited him beyond measure, now often passed an hour at a time with him without being subject to the slightest insult or bitter word. They chatted with him about his pictures and future plans, and he appeared convinced that purely physical malady had necessitated his admission to a private hospital.

It is true that he was not allowed to see his wife, whose presence might have excited him too much, and possibly delayed his cure; but, even had this interview been permitted, Clemence could not have taken advantage of it. During the last few months previous to the birth of her child, no doubt in consequence of the violent scenes she had gone through, she hardly ever left the sofa, and her doctor forbade her to go out either in a carriage or on foot. She frequently wrote affectionate letters to her husband about herself and the child, still unborn—subjects one would have imagined most likely to affect him—and although he replied briefly and in a somewhat confused manner, his letters, on the whole, were such as one would have expected him to write, and they filled her with delight.

As these happy results continued to develop themselves the precautions exercised over Raymond were gradually relaxed. The straight-jacket and padded room were no longer required. One of the warders, whose duty was to watch over him day and night, was taken off, and he was allowed to walk about the grounds of the asylum in company with the other patients who were considered harmless. It is true that the grounds were surrounded on all sides by high walls, which rendered flight impossible, and that he was still followed at a distance by a warder, who at the slightest outburst would have taken charge of him, but the painter never for a moment gave way to any of those eccentricities which are not uncommon with lunatics even during the period of convalescence. He passed most of his time sketching or caricaturing the doctors and his companions.

The keeper who had charge of him, and who kept close to him and his shadow, was not one of the two who in the first instance had been put in charge of him. He had newly entered on his duties, and his appearance was not prepossessing. Although not more than forty years of age his face was as rough and wrinkled as that of some old countryman. Doubtless before being allowed to enter on his very important duties due precaution had been taken, and his recommendations found to be satisfactory; but the authorities at asylums are not over particular with regard to the men who offer to undertake the disagreeable post of keeper. One of the qualities expected from them is a good deal of gentleness and patience, combined with a considerable amount of physical force. Now, Marsaud—for such was this man's name—had a good pair of fists, and had the reputation of being able to receive a nasty blow without wishing to return it. This was sufficient, and he was consequently engaged and employed in looking after Lalande.

Raymond pretended to treat him as an ordinary servant. He acquiesced with very little objection to everything he was asked to do, and Marsaud, on his side, took care not to contradict him. It seemed as if the keeper, in showing so much moderation, had some afterthought which sooner or later would make itself seen.

The question whether Lalande should be allowed to return to his family was again under consideration when Paul Bordier and Legoff called one day at the asylum. They were commissioned to announce to the painter an important piece of news, but as this was likely to impress him in a dangerous manner, they thought it best to be accompanied by one of the doctors of the house.

Dr. B— was one of the most experienced men in his profession with regard to all mental maladies. He was, though still young, he had studied deeply, and his experience was such that he could foresee dangerous results from very slight symptoms. His powerful eye seemed to penetrate to the very soul of the lunatic he was examining.

Although the doctor always spoke to Raymond in a gentle manner, the latter did not like him, and on seeing him approach he frowned. He, however, received his visitors politely, and asked them to be seated, whilst Marsaud remained discreetly near the door.

Dr. B— began the conversation. "Monsieur Lalande," he said in a friendly tone, but fixing on him his piercing eye, "these gentlemen have a piece of news to announce to you. I hope you will receive it with coolness and like a philosopher."

Raymond burst out laughing. "By heavens, doctor," he replied, "I guess the event you allude to. My wife has made me a father; is it not so? Well, don't keep me in suspense. Is it a boy or a girl?"

The tone in which he said this was quite natural, although there was something in the laugh which the doctor did not like. As B— did not at once reply, Paul Bordier, and a fine fellow too, and, to use a commonplace expression, "mother and child are doing well."

"Hurrah!" replied Lalande. "I always wanted a boy. I shall love the mother and child with an equal tenderness. You see, doctor," he added in an ironical manner, "that I receive the news like a philosopher," and he proceeded to inquire after his wife's health and what was taking place at home. His brother-in-law and Legoff gave him full details.

"Look here!" continued Raymond, "when will the baptism of my son take place, and whom shall we have as godparents?"

"I will be the godfather, if you will allow me," replied Paul, "it is my right as head of the family. As for the godmother, I do not think we can do otherwise than ask Mademoiselle Katrine, although Clemence has not yet decided on this point."

"Katrine!" asked Lalande, with unfeigned astonishment, "who is she?"

"We have often spoken to you about her. An excellent creature, who loves Clemence like a sister, and who latterly has nursed her with singular devotedness. Collect your thoughts. I have repeatedly spoken to you of this kind person who desires to repair the wrongs our family has suffered at the hands of hers. As for myself, I delight in her, quite disinterestedly. You know, seeing that Katrine, otherwise Mademoiselle Catherine de Varigny, is over forty, whatever Legoff may say," and Paul smiled ironically at his friend.

"De Varigny!" exclaimed Raymond, who, in spite of the control he exercised over himself, could not help starting.

In order to understand these words of young Bordier, it must be remembered that neither he nor Legoff knew anything about Raymond's absurd suspicions with regard to George de Varigny. From a feeling of delicacy easy to understand, Clemence had never alluded to them, as she attributed them solely to her husband's madness, and felt quite convinced that with the return of reason they would entirely disappear.

Lalande again burst out laughing. "Truly the fête will be a charming one," he continued, "and I should like to be one of the

party. You will, I am sure, doctor, give me my ticket-of-leave, so that I may give myself up freely to the family joys. The meningitis—for such, I believe, is the name of the malady from which I have been suffering—has quite disappeared, and I am anxious to find myself once more in my studio, where so much work awaits me."

It would have been impossible for him to express himself in a simpler or more rational manner, and Paul and Legoff turned towards the doctor, convinced that he could not do otherwise than accede to his request.

"I hope that we shall very shortly be able to satisfy you, M. Lalande. You are much better, but we must guard against any relapse. The family party cannot take place for some days. Between this and then your health will no doubt be still more restored, and then there will be no possible reason why you should not return home."

Notwithstanding Raymond's control over himself he did not succeed in concealing his great delight. He had not time to express it, however, for the doctor, addressing Legoff and Bordier, said:

"Gentlemen, so long a conversation cannot be otherwise than hurtful to our dear invalid, and it is desirable that he should take his usual walk in the grounds."

He rose at the same time, and the two visitors having taken an affectionate farewell, retired with the doctor, leaving Raymond in a dazed condition.

Whilst they were passing through the long corridors of the asylum, the two friends, who had placed themselves one at each side of the doctor, questioned him as to the real condition of the patient.

"Gentlemen," replied the doctor coldly, in a voice which contrasted strangely with his usual soft and insinuating manner, "although M. Lalande's condition is improved, he is far from being cured. His malady has assumed a fresh phase, which is none the less to be feared. I perceive from certain signs that for the present there will be the greatest danger in allowing him to enter the world."

"Is it possible?" said Paul Bordier. "From the way you spoke to him I inferred just the contrary."

"On principle we never appear to oppose our patients, although we never give way to their whims, which are often dangerous. I must be careful not to make an exception in M. Lalande's case, and I cannot at present allow him to leave the asylum, for, as I have already said, he is not yet cured."

"Sir," interposed Legoff, "very important results have certainly been achieved, and Lalande appears to me quite sane. Perhaps if he went back to his old style of life the last traces of his malady would disappear. At the present moment his madness—if it can be called by such a name—is harmless, like that of his sister Honorine, whom I sometimes meet, and who is as docile as a child."

"And his sister's condition," replied the doctor, "is like his, hereditary, and quite incurable. This apparent tranquillity after a former outburst of delirium proves nothing. M. Lalande is what we call a dissembler, or, as the keepers, who he runs cunning, 'L'homme à la machine.' He is mad on one point; he is a monomaniac, with a fixed idea, as you would term it, and his case is a most serious one. Persons in this category may remain apparently sensible for a long time and until the very moment of a catastrophe. They have sufficient control over themselves not to betray their thoughts or plans, and they pursue a hidden end with most extraordinary energy and persistency. This kind of monomania often leads to the most awful crimes, carried out with the utmost prudence and deliberation."

"L'homme à la machine," interrupted Legoff, "do you believe that my brother-in-law is capable of a crime of this character?"

"I don't say that. It is impossible to be quite sure in such a case. But the antecedents of M. Lalande are not very reassuring. Have you forgotten the danger his wife ran in the Forest of Saint Germain? If he were not carefully watched he might repeat the same act, or even worse."

During this conversation they had arrived at the outer court, close to the door. As they were leaving, Paul asked the doctor once more:

"Then, sir, Raymond will not regain his liberty for some time?"

"I do not know," came the reply; "but with my consent he will not leave the asylum until certain symptoms have disappeared."

Having said this he bowed, and the two friends retired, thoroughly disappointed at the result of their visit.

"It seems to me," said Paul, with a show of temper, "that the authorities don't want to lose the large sum which is being paid for Lalande's keep; he has never appeared to me so well, and still they won't let him go."

"For myself," replied Legoff, "I think the doctor is quite right, and in the interest both of mother and child it is needful to be very cautious."

"Ah, you M. Legoff, are always so obstinate in your views. What are we to say to my sister? She is so full of hope, and this disappointment may have a fatal effect in her present condition."

"There is no necessity to tell her at once," he replied.

Whilst Paul and Legoff were returning to the Rue d'Assas, Raymond, accompanied by his keeper, had gone into the grounds to take his daily walk. He was very thoughtful and silent, and there was a savage look on his face. Marsaud, who had acquired a certain knowledge of lunatics and their ways, watched him from afar off in order to be prepared for any emergency.

There existed, as already mentioned, a certain intimacy between Raymond and his keeper. The painter, whilst having a certain contempt for the other patients, did not disdain to chat with Marsaud, and asked him for any information he wanted.

The weather was cold and rainy on the day in question, and most of the inmates of the asylum had remained in their rooms instead of going into the grounds. Raymond had turned into a solitary side walk, which was a favourite of his, and feeling that he was no longer watched and not heeding Marsaud's presence, began to show his agitation by angry gestures and incoherent words.

The keeper, who was following him, approached, and softening his usual harsh tones said, in a friendly manner:

"My opinion is, my good sir, that you are being humbugged by that hypocrite of a doctor who must sign your release in order that you may see your wife and child. He has his own reasons for acting towards you as he has done towards others, and everybody hates him here."

Raymond cast a furious glance at him, but as the words of the keeper were in accordance with his own sentiments, he replied, Marsaud; this Dr. B— is a scoundrel, and I should like to kick him to strangle him to—"

"Stop, stop, my dear sir," interrupted Marsaud, taking a rapid glance around him. "Don't give way in this manner, for if you were seen to do so you would spoil your prospects. Have patience. Dr. B— is not so malevolent here, and cannot keep you a prisoner like the like those who have been condemned at the assizes. By Jove! if you were to leave the house I should be long after you. One is far too much looked after here, life is as hard as if one were in prison. I have had enough of it, and the sooner I am out of it the better."

Raymond caught him suddenly by the arm. "Well, look here, Marsaud," he said, "why should we not both escape together? The means are not wanting, if you could only help me."

"It is all very well for you, M. Lalande; you have a house, a family, and friends to receive you. Once out of this it will be impossible to re-take it. But I, where am I to go? It is true I have a few old friends in Paris, but it would not be safe for me to find them out, and then, how shall I live? I have no money, and there are certain things to which I do not know how to wish to expose myself."

"Well, if you succeed in liberating me from this infernal hole, I will reward you handsomely."

"I learn enormous sums, and all those who stand by me have their share."

"That won't do! Once free, you would no longer think of me. No! that won't do, my good sir. Supposing I was willing to assist you, and could do so, I should not like to compromise myself without money down, paid in advance."

"How am I to get ready money, Marsaud? You know we are not allowed to possess the smallest coin."

"You have relations and rich friends. Why don't you apply to them. Look here, M. Lalande, I won't beat about the bush. I want to oblige you, for you are a kind gentleman, and it seems to me they want to let you rot here. Obtain, some way or another, the sum of one thousand francs, which would suffice for me to escape from Paris and try my fortunes elsewhere, and I will pledge my word that as soon as you have handed me that sum you shall not be twenty-four hours with these lunatics."

"A thousand francs! How am I to get them?"

"That's your look-out. Stay, did you not say just now that you knew some one of the name of de Varigny?"

"De Varigny!" repeated Lalande, his eyes glittering with rage. "Yes, I know some one of that name."

"Is he not the son of the old usurer—the heir to an old blackguard who came to a bad end? Well, he can disgorge, for they say he is worth ever so many millions."

Raymond remained silent, but the frown on his face showed that he was thinking.

"Yes," he said at length, with a hideous smile, "it would be a regular master stroke! Make him pay!" and one of his usual outbursts of laughter followed the thought.

After a time he continued:

"Perhaps after all this de Varigny would not give me the money, and then, again, I don't know where he lives."

"It won't require much cleverness to discover where a millionaire lives, and if I am not mistaken it won't be necessary to leave this house to find out."

"What do you mean?"

"Why only a few days back I saw your swell enter the private study of the director of the asylum."

"Are you sure, Marsaud; was it really George de Varigny?"

"I know his face well enough, and perhaps he knows mine, which is not a very pleasant prospect, for he is on intimate terms with those who are so very friendly disposed towards me."

"If he comes here," said Marsaud, "if he has been here with the director-in-chief, I am undoubtedly the subject of his visits. He is, of course, sent by the other one to recommend that I should be kept here indefinitely, and whilst I am kept a prisoner here they lead a jolly life; they amuse themselves, they snap their fingers at the deceased husband. By all the devils!" he continued, grinding his teeth and clenching his fists.

"Hush! hush! M. Lalande," said Marsaud, uneasily; "if you were seen in this condition you would be sent to the part of the building set aside for violent patients, and it would be impossible to get you out. Let us go in at once, as the hour for exercise has passed. Reflect on all this, but for heaven's sake keep calm, or it will turn out badly."

Raymond with great difficulty conquered the feelings which had taken possession of him. "You are right, Marsaud," he replied, resuming his calm demeanour. "I must reflect on all this. But I wish to leave this place, and leave it all behind me. The rest of the day he remained buried in thought. It seemed as if he were meditating one of those projects which madmen so often carry out with a coolness and forthrightness of which one would have thought them incapable.

CHAPTER XX.

THE CHRISTENING DINNER.

The hopes lately entertained with regard to Raymond were not destined to be realized. He had been unable to obtain his release from the asylum, and although the date of the baptism had been put off from time to time, in the hope that he might be able to be present, it was at length found necessary to proceed with the ceremony.

It was a dreadful blow to Clemence, who desired by every means in her power to create an affection on the part of the father towards his child, and she feared that a prolonged separation might prevent this. A little family party was organized, and the presence of Raymond, once more in his senses, was an event devoutly to be wished for. Although the young mother had not yet been able to go out, she was sufficiently conversant with the superstitions of the simple folk which was about to take place. In spite of the past and of the sad possibilities which might be expected from it in the future, she had somewhat regained hope, and she was grieved to think that her husband's return home was indefinitely postponed.

Raymond, on his side, protested against the tyranny which kept him away from her. He replied to his wife's affectionate letters by complaints of a very bitter character. Although these replies were always short and a little obscure, they did show any trace of derangement. Clemence only saw in them proofs of affection towards her and the little one. She had consequently united with her brother in writing to the head of the asylum begging for the immediate release of her husband.

The principal medical officer answered officially that if the treatment of the patient was interrupted the result might be very serious to everybody, and from this decision there was no appeal. On the other hand, those most intimate with the brother and sister began to feel that the patient's being forcibly detained without cause, and simply for financial reasons of an unworthy kind. However, Clemence's religious scruples would not allow her to delay the baptism of her son any longer, and it was arranged that the religious ceremony should take place in the Church of Saint Sulpice.

Beside the godfather and godmother—that is to say, Paul Bordier and Katrine de Varigny—Clemence had only invited her old friend Legoff, Prince Villa Franca, an old Spaniard who was great amateur of painting, and a woman whom she hoped might be of service to her son, and, lastly, Katrine's cousin, George de Varigny.

It was only after considerable hesitation that she decided to ask George to be of the party. However absurd might be Lalande's suspicions, she felt how necessary it was to do nothing to excite the unhappy madman's imagination. On the other hand, she could not well omit inviting the nearest relative of the godmother. She remembered what immense services George had rendered her, and she knew that he ever watched over her and hers like an invisible providence. Besides, in their rare meetings he had always been so delicate and respectful that there was really no reason why he should not be asked to join the family party.

After the religious service a nice little dinner was served in Raymond's own studio, where, surrounded by his pictures and sketches, he was fondly recalled to their memory.

Clemence did the honours of the house, and notwithstanding a feeling of melancholy, tried her best to entertain her friends. They responded to her good wishes, but there was naturally, under the peculiar circumstances, some amount of constraint.

Towards the end of the dinner a nurse entered with the infant, who was dressed in a white robe, trimmed with rich lace. It was presented to each guest in turn, who placed a kiss on its delicate forehead. It was a pretty child, rosy, and in the best of health, and every one commented on its likeness to its father.

Clemence was much touched by the affectionate congratulations of her friends.

"Yes, he is very like his father," she said, her eyes filling with tears, "and I pray God he may resemble him in his brilliant qualities. The poor little thing enters the world under very sad auspices. Oh, my dear friends, let me implore you to stand by him in after life should he ever require your assistance. You will love and

cherish him, will you not, for, perhaps, it may be more necessary for him than for others."

Sobs choked her utterance, and those present, understanding to what she referred, were visibly affected. However, no one liked to show her that her meaning was understood, and all assured her that a child who appeared so healthy would be sure to succeed in the world, and that she might depend on their warmest support in case of need. Clemence did not pursue the subject further, and, smiling through her tears, kissed the child and sent it away with its nurse.

After its departure an uneasy feeling seemed to weigh upon the spirits of the guests. Clemence expressed unintentionally the thoughts which were passing through her mind. "Ah!" she said, with a sigh, "how much happier this gathering would have been had Raymond been present, and as we were able to hope at one time; but he is not here, and God knows when he will be."

"Ah, who knows," said Katrine, who seemed nervous and ill at ease, continually looking towards the door.

"I fear," said Madame Lalande, "that he has become the victim of some evil conspiracy. However, I am now convalescent, and in a few days I shall be able to go out in a carriage. I shall at once go to Passy and insist upon seeing him. We will then arrange some plan for breaking down this odious plot."

"Perhaps M. Lalande may come back before," said Katrine, hurriedly. "I don't suppose they can keep him indefinitely."

"Certainly not," interposed Paul Bordier, with some importance. "In my position as head of the family I will see to it."

The other guests were silent and exchanged glances. At length Legoff, playing with his snuff-box, formerly made of bone, was now of silver, said:

"You know, Madame Lalande, that no one desires your husband's release more than I do, but it is desirable that his return home should be attended with good results. We are assured that Lalande might possibly have a relapse, and as long as this is even likely surely a little delay is preferable."

"Legoff is right," exclaimed George de Varigny, who seemed unable to remain silent any longer. "I had occasion recently to go to the asylum in order to have a chat with the principal, and perhaps after all the doctor's scruples may be more reasonable than you imagine. Ah, Madame," he continued impressively, "do you not fear a recurrence of the dreadful scene which took place in the Forest of St. Germain?"

Clemence shuddered at the thought, but she replied:

"These fears are no longer possible, M. de Varigny; Raymond's malady seems quite cured, and the charming letters he sends me."

George had not the courage to persist, and looked down. Katrine, who sat near him, said in a low voice:

"Do you really believe, cousin George, that if M. Lalande returned he would be capable of violence?"

"If he were to return," replied George in the same tone of voice, "the greatest calamities might result from it."

"Is it possible?" murmured the old maid, much disturbed. "I thought just the contrary; besides, Clemence's sorrow made me so miserable. Good heavens! what have I done?"

George was much surprised at these words, and was about to ask her the meaning of them, when the Prince of Villa Franca, who whilst eating some dried fruit had listened to the general conversation, said with a Spanish accent:

"Perhaps, after all, Madame Lalande is quite right to put us on our guard, for I am sure advantage is being taken of the natural sympathy every one feels for the great artist. Within the last few days a rather forbidding-looking man called at my house in the Avenue des Farnes and asked to be allowed to deliver to me personally a letter from one of my intimate friends."

"I made no objection to seeing him, and he handed me the letter in question. It was very short, in a shaky handwriting, and signed 'Raymond Lalande.' Your husband requested me to hand the bearer a thousand francs, which he Lalande, was in want of, and he promised that the next time we met he would explain what he wanted it for."

"Every one knows," continued the prince in a pompous tone, "that I am no miser. When it is a question of serving my friends my whole fortune is at their disposal. I asked the messenger who he was, and how he came to be entrusted with this mission. He replied in a hesitating manner that the result of this money would be the immediate release of M. Lalande."

"All this appeared to me very strange, and I persisted in knowing more, adding that I would send for the police if he did not give me certain explanations. At the word 'police' the scoundrel fled without my being able to prevent him. Unfortunately he carried off the letter, which I wished to retain, so that I might later on ascertain whether or not it had really emanated from Lalande."

"You see," added the prince, "the moral to be drawn from this adventure. Our friend is no doubt surrounded by a certain set of scamps who are either taking advantage of his credulity, or are using his name to extort money from his friends. All those who hear me can take warning."

The prince having finished his story, once more occupied himself with the dessert.

"Are you sure, prince," inquired Clemence, "that the letter really was written by my husband?"

"I know Lalande's handwriting very well, and the letter itself was very like it, but the precaution taken to try it off leaves me in doubt whether, after all, it was not a forgery."

"Then, in your opinion," said Katrine, "if any one had given the thousand francs to the messenger he would simply have been the dupe of a thief?"

"I cannot, of course, be certain; the best way would be to ask Lalande himself."

Whilst the guests were making comments on the Prince of Villa Franca's story, Katrine leant across to her cousin.

"George," she said, in a low voice, "I fear I have acted very stupidly. The man spoken of by the prince also called upon me the day before yesterday, whilst you were at Saint Germain. As he said the letter was important and immediate, I opened it, having often received your permission to do so on those occasions when you happened to be absent. It was signed by M. Lalande and him a thousand francs. I questioned the messenger closely, and he assured me that by means of this money Clemence's husband could not fail to regain his liberty."

"I took the thousand francs out of the money which you gave me to keep, and I gave them to the messenger, who promised me that M. Lalande would be free this very day. But he has not arrived, and, on the other hand, do you think there can possibly be any danger?"

"Katrine," exclaimed George, "I fear you have committed a most imprudent act. Why did you not tell me sooner of this affair?"

"Only this very moment have any doubts crossed my mind. I wished to cause an agreeable surprise to Clemence, who is so anxious to see her husband again."

"I only hope that no other misfortune may result from this but a trifling money loss, for, on the other hand—"

"George, you make me shudder! But the night has now set in, and I don't fancy we need any longer fear the arrival of M. Lalande."

The evening had indeed arrived, and the studio was getting dark, so Clemence ordered the lamps to be brought in.

"Reassure yourself, my dear Katrine," said George, perceiving that his cousin was trembling all over. "To-morrow I will go to the asylum, and will have a chat with the principal in order to solve this enigma. In the meantime, do not

worry yourself and, above all things, do not allow Clemence to suspect anything."

During this conversation no one heard the noise of a carriage which had stopped before the house. All of a sudden the door of the studio was violently thrown open, and in the semi-obscurity the figure of a man appeared bareheaded, with his clothes in disorder and his hair flying about his face. His eyes glared like those of a wild cat, and he seemed to dart forth rays of light. It was Raymond Lalande!

As all the guests remained thunderstruck, he stopped for a moment on the threshold of the door and burst into a fit of laughter.

"A good appetite to you all!" he shrieked. "You have not, I see, waited for my arrival to commence the banquet, but, thank goodness! I am in time. We will have rare fun together!" and he rushed towards the table round which the guests were seated.

(To be continued.)

## SINGULAR CHARGE AGAINST A CHEMIST.

At the Wandsworth Police Court, Herbert Alfred Ellis, a chemist, residing at High-street, Ely, Camberley, was brought up on a warrant charged with stealing a bottle of macassar oil and the sum of 25, the property of Mr. Thomas Elton Kirkman, a chemist, carrying on business in High-street, Wimbledon.

Mr. Cooper, barrister, defended. The prosecutor deposed that on the 12th inst. a man, whom he believed to be the prisoner, came to his shop, and handed him a piece of paper, on which purported to be a request from Mrs. May, housekeeper to General Anderson, of Eagle House, Sunnyside, for some articles and change for a 25 note. Witness complied with the request, and sent the goods and the money by his messenger, who returned with a letter marked "private," but without the 25 note. He never saw the man before. Mr. Cooper: Are you sure the prisoner is the man?—Witness: He is very similar. I believe he is the man, but I can't swear to him positively.

William Booth, the prosecutor's messenger, said at a quarter to eight in the evening on the 12th inst. he was sent with the money and other things to Eagle House. As he got inside the gate he met a man who said he had come from Mrs. May, and inquired if he (the witness) had the things. He replied that he had, and delivered them to him. He gave him a letter, which he took back to Mr. Kirkman. He could not swear that the prisoner was the man, as it was dark at the time. The man wore dark clothes, a dark felt hat, and a dark coat. He was a stout, middle-aged man, with a high forehead, and a serious expression. He was about 5 feet 6 inches high, and weighed about 140 lbs. He had a fair complexion, and a high forehead. He was a native of London, and had been in the service of Mrs. May for some time. He was a very respectable man, and was well known to the witness. He was a native of London, and had been in the service of Mrs. May for some time. He was a very respectable man, and was well known to the witness.

"These facts are no longer possible, M. de Varigny; Raymond's malady seems quite cured, and the charming letters he sends me."



## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

Right glad were we weary senators when the interminable and desperately wearisome session of 1888 at last flickered out. The public have no idea of what it is to sit hour after hour while the Parnellite crew continue to deliberately waste time. If they are paid for doing that, as rumour says they are, I must confess they thoroughly earn their wages. But so great is the sense of relief at being rid of their companionship, that I am almost ready to forget and forgive their discreditable tactics. It is extraordinary that these men, who are not deficient in shrewdness, think that they will secure Home Rule by applying the coercion of obstruction to the House of Commons. Of all mad notions, that is the maddest.

Another idea rather savouring of mild lunacy has got hold, it appears, on certain Scotch Unionists. They have begged Lord Randolph Churchill to give up his perfectly safe seat for South Paddington on the chance of being returned for their constituency. That would, indeed, be swapping the substance for the shadow. Lord Randolph feels perfectly comfortable where he is, and if these worthy Scots cannot get on without a knight errant, they must find some one else to play the part.

The recent bye-elections have greatly disconcerted the Separatists, who made sure that these contests would afford them occasion for cock-swooping during the Parliamentary recess. Instead of fulfilling that hope, the quadruple contest has demonstrated that the Liberal Unionists have abandoned the idea of reconciliation with the Gladstonians, and now favour a fighting policy. They have still a good deal of work to accomplish before their electoral strength will be fully organised. But they are making steady progress in the required direction, a fact which does not give the Separatists much comfort.

It was not altogether "straight" conduct on the part of Mr. Gladstone to fire off a speech full at the grossest misstatements on the eve of his departure for Italy, and then to give directions that all letters addressed to Hawarden should be kept there until his return. This almost looks as if he expected to be called to account for his taradiddles, and was anxious to save himself the trouble of trying to explain them away. It is rumoured that when he heard the result of the Colchester and Stockton elections, he exclaimed, "The English people are very stupid." Not so stupid, at all events, as to be taken in by a political "confidence trick."

The London County Council promises to be a curious mixture of personalities. Among the candidates already in the field some are men of position, others of no position; some have made names for themselves, others belong to the illustrious unknown; some are moved by genuine desire to work for their fellow-citizens, others the open to the suspicion of intending to work for themselves. It is certainly a "leap in the dark" to hand over such enormous powers for good or evil to bodies constituted of such heterogeneous materials. Fortunately, the English have a gift for making even the roughest machinery work smoothly, and I do not doubt that the County Councils will do good work after a time.

Lord Rosebery used to hold himself somewhat aloof from the unscrupulous manoeuvres of the other Separatist leaders. Unhappily, this is no longer the case. Hitherto to Mr. Gladstone's successor has proved too strong for his squeamishness. In his latest speech—a curiously dull one, by the way—the Scotch peer backed back to the worn-out "black man cry, and discrediting Lord Salisbury's explanation, endeavoured to make out that the Premier had sneered at all coloured people. Bosh! Lord Salisbury merely stated that a black man does not stand such a good chance as a white man to represent an English constituency in the House of Commons. That is a fact, and there is nothing insulting in mentioning it. In some foreign countries the devil is always represented with a white complexion, that being the unfashionable colour.

A story goes that after Dr. Tanner's disgraceful exhibition in the House he received by post a little packet addressed by a feminine hand. Thinking that it was some pretty Christmas present from a "masked" beauty, he hurriedly opened the string and found a little pink note. This merely said, "Please use the enclosed frequently." The contents were a box of dentifrice and a tongue scraper. Tanner swore.

That seems incredible. The Chancellor of the Exchequer actually acknowledged the receipt of £25 as a conscience money from a provincial solicitor. Absurd! As if any lawyer had had a conscience. It must be one of Mr. Goschen's little jokes; there is a deal of his humour about him.

There are some stern economists who grudge the national outlay on the consular service, affecting to believe that it contains too many members. Perhaps they may come to a different view when they see that Prince Bismarck is steadily strengthening the German consular service. During the last sixteen years the number of its offices has been augmented by between thirty and forty per cent., and this process is still going on. British consuls and their assistants are the very eyes and feelers of British commerce; without them it would soon have the bottom knocked out of it by foreign competition.

The Sultan is delighted, it appears, by Lord Salisbury's recognition of his suzerainty rights at Suakin. It would not be judicious for the Turk to make too much of that acknowledgment. Rights and duties run together, and if, therefore, Turkey is suzerain in the Egyptian interior, in the Red Sea, she is bound to defend it against the Southerners. Will the Sultan do that and place a garrison at Suakin? Not a bit of it.

## WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

Not much racing news worth recording has been chronicled this week. At the clubs, meetings have paid far more attention to billiards than to betting, and until Wednesday the list of fixtures was happily left blank. Under the circumstances it was natural that the Derby, which has been hitherto almost neglected, was brought up for notice. Donovan, of course, is favourite, and 3 to 1 a current quotation in the extremely limited market. Laureate will no doubt be well backed when more books are opened. As usual when warren long before a race is under notice, I advise readers not to bother about it. As regards Laureate, I wish to make this tip specially strong, because no matter how good he may be, his engagements other than the Derby are likely to interfere with a proper training for the Epsom event.

Mr. R. C. Naylor's recent sale of horses in training is not to be taken as a final dispersal of his racing stud, it seems, for the horses then knocked down to Mr. J. L. Davis turn out to have been bought in. They will be trained by W. Gilbert at Newmarket, and under Mr. Garry Moore's care at Liphigton. The Hooton millionaires had not much luck in racing of late. Let us hope that change of quarters may mean change of fortune.

A big company assembled at Kempton on bank holiday, and a capital afternoon's sport rewarded their attendance. As a rule, the racing was exciting, and especially so in the last event of the day, the Twickenham Maiden Hurdle Race. After several checks and changes in running, Diavolo seemed to be winning with a good deal to spare, when young Sam Woodlands on Purple Emperor came with a rush. Diavolo was eased near the post, and before he knew it, he was very near, could he fairly set going again, Purple Emperor had caught him and won.

We start with the Hunters' Flat Race in

which good odds were laid on Unripe, who in the contest had no chance whatever with Weasel, an animal who seems able to put up with any amount of forcing. Weasel, the conqueror of three starlets, cleverly won the Selling Hurdle Race. Superior jockeys got Lady Winifred home ahead of Alcous in the Christmas Hurdle Race. The latter would have won had Captain Owen come sooner. After Edward had easily won the Selling Steeplechase, Charming Nancy scored another success for the clever Littleton stable. At the distance, Forest looked to have only Bay Comet to beat to win, but Nancy and Lord Lumley, who had been overlooked as they were running on the near side of the course, beat all the others at the finish.

A. J. Webb, an old Oxford captain, is succeeded by a Light Blue rival, the Hon. Ivo Bligh, in the dual offices of secretary and treasurer to the County Cricket Council. When I say that both berths are honorary, I rather understate the fact, for I believe it was discovered by the auditors who examined A. J. Webb's accounts that he had been guilty of defrauding himself of 3s. 6d. or so. Mr. Bligh is one of our most popular cricketers, and I agree with the *Globe* in hoping that this accepting of financial and clerical office may be followed by a return to active service in the field.

The English cricketers commenced their tour in the Cape Colonies with a match against a twenty-two of the Western Province and District. They lost the toss, and had to field in beautiful weather while the colonials ran up 137 on an excellent wicket. To this the visitors answered with 135, of which J. H. Roberts, 20; M. P. Bowden, 19; Abel, 38; and Hood (not out), 30, contributed best. In their second turn at the wickets the Cape twenty-two credited themselves with 138 (Melton 46), and when Smith and Co. batted again they dismissed them for 123—Abel, 26; Maurice Reid, 44. This left the home side victorious by 17 runs, a rather ominous start. They did not begin well in the second game with fifteen of the colony.

A more important pigeon shooting match than we have had chronicled lately was decided at Hendon on Monday. Captain Brewer, the well-known American shot, gave Mr. Walter Blake three yards at fifty birds each for £100 a side. The American, who was on the thirty-three yards mark, killed sixteen out of his first twenty-five birds, while Mr. Blake brought down twenty-one of the same number of shots. They each killed twenty in the second round, and the Englishman accordingly won by five birds.

A match at draughts is progressing between James Smith, of Spennymoor (English champion), and Charles F. Barker, of Boston, who claims the American championship. They are playing the best of thirty-two games (wins and draws all to count). Each player is bound not to repeat an opening for a game, and the American's friends have announced their intention of backing him against Wyllie, the herd laddie, in case this trial with Smith proves successful.

An annual event which I should be very sorry to see lapse, the Serpentine Christmas Morning Swimming Handicap, was decided to date. The Serpentine folk have had many difficulties to cope with in these affairs, not the least King Frost, who occasionally has put a skating rink on top of the swimmers' favourite bath. This year the water was free enough from ice, and one did not feel quite so much pity for the gallant competitors, who, I may explain, are not very sensitive to the cold water's effect, since the what they can to keep acclimatised to the change of season. In the race the veteran D. Ainsworth, ex-half mile champion, 10sec. start, won by a foot, with J. Jones, 17sec. second, and J. P. O'Connor, 37sec. third. As the Amateur Swimming Association demanded that a permit for the race should be taken out by the Serpentine Club, they determined to restrict it this year to members, so as to let all compete who cared to pay 5s. for membership and entrance fee, and arranged to elect entrants of clubs other than their own, by which move they circumvented the association. I do not think that the A.S.A. would hold in public water and quite free from game charge.

At Swanscombe on Monday, the Morris met a fifteen, whom they beat by one goal two tries and four points to four minors. Far more interest was taken in the succeeding game against Newport, played there on Boxing Day. In this the New Zealanders scored three tries and six minors to three minors. North End on Wednesday beat West Bromwich Albion by five goals to nil.

Before the first round of the seafield Christmas Handicap, started seven men were well backed, viz., G. Smith of Pittsburgh, Wright, Jennings, Grant, Ranson, Edwards, and J. Smith. Most of the favourites were beaten after the first round.

## OLD IZAAK.

There is still not much to do but to enter upon the "endless field of thought and speculation" which is one of the chief charms of angling. All ideas of active experiment must be put aside in face of the continued unfavourable weather. It may be that we shall have two or three nights' frost before New Year's Day to put the water a little in trim for those anglers to whom that day means a holiday, but the result of the Christmas fishing has been failure all round. I felt it to be useless to wish my readers merry Christmas last week if they intended to fish, for I knew that the circumstances under which they would do so would be most despiral and hopeless, but I can, and wish them a happy New Year, and trust that during 1889 they may feel many a tight line.

In marked contrast to the announcement recently made that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales would be asked to take the chair at the next annual dinner of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, comes the news that the next committee meeting of that society will probably be the last, and that, as a matter of course, the whole staff of river-keepers have received notices of discharge.

May we hope to see, then, during the coming year a really competent society formed to protect and preserve the fish in the river between Staines and Kew. Its objects should be to protect the fish from the poacher, to restrict it as far as possible with coarse fish, and to do this there is no reason why the resources opened out by artificial fish culture should not be utilised, as pointed out by me in my article of the 4th ult.; to put a stop to the taking of undersized fish; and to afford facilities to fish for spawning, and to protect the spawn itself.

I venture to think, although "I say it as I oughtn't to," that many of my readers who, like myself, were debarked from fishing by the weather, must have derived considerable comfort and consolation from the huge penny comic comprised in the Christmas number of the *People*. Reading, in my opinion, comes next to angling as an innocent harmless amusement, and the opportunity afforded by the issue I have mentioned must have come as a boon and a blessing to men.

The Christmas number of the *Fishing Gazette* was also remarkable for its quality and quantity. The well executed engraving representing a group of pike fishermen landing a fish about 100 years ago, will do more to excite astonishment at the way in which our ancestors used to dress when angling than anything else. An angler who now went down to the banks of a river—let us say the Lea—on Sunday morning attired in a tall beaver hat, top boots, and a frock coat, would probably find himself regarded with some slight degree of wonder and amusement. The tale, too, of the two Frenchmen who, during the siege of Paris, were captured while fishing by the Prussians and were shot as spies, is well and pathetically told. Mr. R. B. Marston is to be congratulated upon the fact that he has not only been able to earn his living, but has lately suffered a great bereavement and sorrow, in which he will have the heartfelt sympathy of many anglers.

A complaint is being made about professional

fishermen fishing on their own account, but I, for one, sincerely pity these poor men, improvident as they are, and do not blame them for trying to catch a few fish to sell as bait or to provide a meal for starving little ones at home. I was recently told by one of the men that "the youngsters would have to sew their mouths up," and the words, even though used in a grim jest, grate unpleasantly upon the ear at this season of the year, and do not lend a pleasant flavour to one's own roast turkey and plum pudding.

Further difficulties have arisen with regard to the much-needed lock and weir which it is proposed shall be constructed below Richmond Bridge, and the carrying out of the idea seems to be as far off as ever. The Board of Trade impose such arbitrary conditions upon those who have the matter in hand, which must be fulfilled before they allow an official inquiry to take place, that nothing further will be done—at all events, at present.

There are reasonable grounds for hoping that the general state of angling affairs will be in better condition at the end of 1889 than at present. A bill to protect the rights of anglers against the encroachments of riparian owners is awaiting the attention of the legislature, and the land, and the carrying out of the idea seems to be as far off as ever. The Board of Trade impose such arbitrary conditions upon those who have the matter in hand, which must be fulfilled before they allow an official inquiry to take place, that nothing further will be done—at all events, at present.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

The fox is usually spoken of as a model of cunning. He possesses that quality, no doubt, but a still more notable characteristic is his stamina, or, as athletes would call it, his "staying power." There are not many of our fleetest runners who could go at top speed for twenty-five miles on end, as a gallant fox did in Cardiganshire the other day. He covered that distance in something less than three and a half hours, hotly pursued by a pack of hounds. The dogs must have occasionally missed the scent and so allowed poor Reynard a brief breathing time, or the time of the run would have been shorter. Even with these checks, the pace was over seven miles an hour throughout. I am glad to say that the fugitive escaped after all, thanks to a friendly "earth" presenting itself just when he must have been doubting whether hunting is unmixid fun for the hunted.

I see that a British sailor has been devoured by ground sharks at Sierra Leone. The unfortunate man was on a punt engaged with others in clearing the side of his ship. His legs were dangling over the side, when he suddenly disappeared and never rose again to the surface. A short time afterwards a native caught the murderous fish on his hook, and in its death struggles it threw up the arm of the dead sailor.

Luckily our seas are tolerably free of these unpleasant visitors, but still blue sharks are frequently caught off the southern coasts. The tope and smooth hound are common British species. Occasionally the hammer-headed shark, the strongest fish of the order, wanders up from the more southerly portions of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans to these isles. The broad flat head of this fish is exactly the appearance of a hammer, the eyes being placed at each of the ends. The fox shark, otherwise known as thresher, occasionally honours us with his presence. He is of a good length—fifteen feet and more—and derives his first name from his long tail. The porbeagle, too, is sometimes found on our southern coasts and those of our sister island, and the Greenland shark on rare occasions has been met with off the western shores of Scotland and England.

It may interest my readers who were not acquainted with the fact to learn that the turkey, which just now holds a large place in our thoughts, is not an indigenous bird. It was introduced to Europe from North America in the sixteenth century. It received its name under an erroneous impression that it hailed from the land which has a similar title. The wild birds from the same stock still are plentiful in North American forests, where they live on a mixed diet of insects, berries, fruits, small frogs, &c.

While we are enjoying ourselves at Christmas time we ought not to forget the more humble creature. A letter has appeared in a morning contemporary calling attention to the thoughtless cruelty method often adopted for killing geese. The former referred to in the letter slaughtered his birds by holding the head tight, and then sawing slowly into the back of it. The writer points out that the best, quickest, and, therefore, most humane method is decapitation. The head should be placed on a block and severed by a single blow of an axe. This, of course, ensures immediate death, and is just as convenient for the owner of the bird.

A Calcutta paper records that a peculiar cow is now being exhibited by a native. It is about two years old, and is quite healthy and well-formed, except that it is provided with two perfect heads, each possessing the proper complement of ears, eyes, and horns. The animal has two mouths, but it only uses the left one for eating. Creatures with such malformations as this do not generally live so long, much less remain in full health.

Madras comes a report of a cat which is stated to have devoured a cobra, and apparently relished it. Power, however, refused to eat the head of the reptile, seeming to know that danger lies in that direction. I remember a somewhat similar story of a snake-eating cat from America.

An exact list of the game shot by the Emperor William II. on the 17th of November last at Schönlitz, and on the 23rd and 24th, at Letzitz, in Germany, has lately appeared. At the first place the Emperor killed 639 head of game, including nine roe and many pheasants, partridges, and quail. At the latter place his Majesty shot one stag, one roe deer, forty-three fallow deer, and fifty-six wild geese. Truly Royal sport!

It reads oddly in this glorious nineteenth century that the European country which prides itself on being ahead of all others in civilisation should still have to pay a round sum annually for the destruction of wolves. And still more curious does it seem to English folks that this wolf-ridden country should be their next-door neighbour. A return last published shows that the French Government disbursed last year very nearly £2,000 in rewards for the destruction of 701 wolves. This is a sad diminution compared with previous years, but the number is surprisingly large for such a densely populated and closely cultivated land as France. Mr. Wolf dare not show his face on this side of the Channel. Were he so foolish, a thousand keen sportsmen would be after him at once, and every yokel who could be, borrow, or "convey" a gun would join in the hunt for the mere love of the thing.

## THE ACTOR.

Never go to a dress rehearsal, or, for that matter, any rehearsal whatever, if you can help it. At the best of times they are very dreary. I looked in the Adelphi on the night preceding the production of "The Silver Fella," and what a dismal evening I spent! It was only a scene rehearsal, and the characters did not "dress" for the occasion. Conceive, therefore, a performance by Mr. Shaw, Miss Millward, Miss Nether-sole, and Miss Jacks took part in their every-day

clothes, albeit three of the four acts have their scene laid in Mexico.

That, however, is not so bad as the cold and draughty air of the theatre, the depressing look of the covered-up seats in the auditorium, the waits between the acts, and, on occasion, the repetition of a long scene from beginning to end. That was what "floored" me the other night at the Adelphi, and while the scene was being re-enacted, I fled. Soon after I came back the play stopped again at a front scene, because the scene behind it could not be "set" in time, necessitating either greater speed in "setting" or the addition of dialogue to the front scene, so as to spread it out to the required length.

Herein are illustrated some of the troubles of playwrights. They set to work to cut out dialogue which seems redundant, and then at the last moment have to put it back again. Fortunately, Messrs. Pettitt and Sims are both good-natured men, and everything must have been arranged acceptably, for on the following night the piece "went" with wonderful smoothness. Among the spectators, by the way, were Mrs. and Miss Terris, the wife and daughter of the popular actor.

While "The Silver Fella" was being produced at the Adelphi, "Prince Karl" was being revived at the Globe, and I mention the fact in order to record the remarkable advance made in his art by Mr. Weedon Groves, who has now joined Mr. Mansfield's company, and whose performance of the languid swell is a wonderful improvement upon his acting at the Gaiety, and is decidedly better even than his Jacques Strop at the Lyceum. As a light comedian Mr. Groves should yet make his mark. Everybody knows, I suppose, that he is an excellent amateur painter.

The management of the Princess's Theatre sent out printed programmes (it at least received one) announcing that Miss Grace Hawthorne would appear on Christmas Eve (or, rather, Christmas Eve afternoon) as Nancy Sikes in the first of a series of matinees of "Oliver Twist." How is it that this announcement has never been verified? and how comes the management to send out such paragraphs and yet not "play up" to them?

Nearly everybody was at Drury Lane on Boxing Night. I say nearly everybody, because, late in the evening, I passed Miss Kate Vaughan in the lobby of the Jodrell, where, presumably, she had just arrived from Paris. So sorry was my inability to see her that I wrote a long letter to Lord Londesborough, who was there, with a party of six; and so was Miss Edith Woodworth's husband, in a small stage-box. In another box was Mr. Gillie Farquhar; and round about me in the stalls were Mrs. Marini, and Miss Lily Clay, and Captain Shaw, and Mr. Manville Fenn, and Miss Caroline Hill, and Mr. Sala, and Mr. Ashby-Sterry—and more others than I can stop to name.

By the way, what a draught there was from the stage when the beginning of the panorama scene was first displayed. It came over the stalls like a cold wind (if one can imagine such a thing), and caused (in my quarter) a general wrapping up of legs and throats. This sort of visitation should be avoided if possible.

Talking of pantomimes, how the provincial productions do draw upon the stock of London talent. Both Miss Alma Stanley and Miss Minnie Cunningham left "Athena" (at the Strand) in order to fulfil county engagements. Miss Grace Huntley and Miss Alice Letbridge have gone to Bristol, Miss Laura Linden and Miss Kate Everingham to Liverpool, Miss Fannie Leslie and Mr. Sam Wilkinson to Manchester, and Miss Josephine Findlay and Mr. Lionel Rignold to Newcastle.

And the call upon the music-halls is not less—perhaps it is even more notable. Thus, Miss Adelle Conyers has been engaged for Brighton, Miss Minnie Mario for Manchester, Miss Billee Barlow for Edinburgh, while Sam Kedern, the Two Macs, and Miss Lottie Collins are all in Manchester. And the list might be very largely extended.

It appears to be believed that Mr. Comyns Carr's pamphlet, "Macbeth and Lady Macbeth," is a semi-official publication intended to make the public acquainted beforehand with the view taken by Miss Ellen Terry of the character of Macbeth's wife. What that view is I communicated to my readers a few weeks ago. It embodies the theory that Lady Macbeth was no fiend in human shape, but a very woman—feminine to the finger-tips. I am ready to be convinced, but how this conception is to be made even plausible I at the present fail to see.

## JACK ALLROUND.

"Will you kindly inform me the best way to polish a floor with beeswax and oil or anything else which would be better?" writes "Beeswax." As an essential preliminary the floor should be perfectly even and without protruding nail-heads. My correspondent does not say whether his floor is parquet or common deal boards. I assume it is the latter. Let the floor be thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water, and then washed off. When soap is used it must be washed off with clean water, using a soft whitewashing brush. Allow the floor to dry for twenty-four hours, then with this size go carefully over it, using the same brush, and allow the size also to dry for twenty-four hours. While the above processes are taking place prepare the beeswax as follows:—To one pound of beeswax allow two quarts of spirits of turpentine; put the latter in a stone bottle, and finely shred the wax into it, place them near the fire, and frequently shake until the wax is entirely dissolved, when it is ready to be applied. Varnish the floor with a put brush evenly, leaving no spots unbrushed. When the wax is on the floor is a question of unparqueted floorboards, for the floor must now be polished with a rather hard brush (the proper kind for the purpose can be got at the oil shop) until a good bright surface is obtained. These directions are intended for an ordinary sitting-room; the preparation of a polished floor for dancing is not quite the same.

I am asked by "A Constant Reader" how to make Indian chutney. It is made in several ways, with mangoes, tomatoes, green gooseberries, &c. Apples are more generally obtainable, I give the following recipe:—Take six apples peeled, cored, and quartered half a pound; put them into a pint of good vinegar, and boil until the apples are soft enough to pulp; let them cool. Take four ounces stoned raisins, eight ounces brown sugar, two ounces garlic, and two ounces mustard seed; pound up each of these separately in a mortar, then mix them together, adding two ounces each of ground ginger and one ounce of cayenne, and pound this mixture up well together in a mortar. Having done so, add them and mix them well with the vinegar and pulped apples, and put the whole into an earthenware jar; set it in a warm place by the fire, and let it stand for a week. The chutney may be put into small jars and tied down. It will keep well for a couple of years.

In reply to "D. W." who asks me how to make a sort of semi-transparent tracing paper without using oil, to match a sample which he sends, I certainly cannot have his specimen tested as he suggests, but the recipes below may suit his purpose. To six ounces of best spirits of turpentine, add a quarter of an ounce of gum mastic; put them in a bottle and shake frequently day by day until the gum has dissolved and mixed with the spirits, when it is ready for use. The mixture sometimes thickens through the evaporation of the spirit. When this occurs a little of the latter may be added and well shaken through. Lay the best quality white tissue paper on a flat board, apply the mixture with a soft broad brush, and hang the paper up to dry. I have occasionally used this myself, but do not consider it transparent enough for delicate work. Half an ounce of beeswax, finely shred, and put into a bottle containing a pint of spirits of turpentine, the wax is occasionally shaken together until the wax is dis-

solved and completely amalgamated. The mixture then applied as above, but to both sides of the tissue paper, gives a paper very similar to the sample sent by my correspondent.

On behalf of "A Young Beginner," who is anxious to make beef and pork sausages, "Country Butcher," who has made large quantities of both to supply a "great demand," very kindly tells me how he used to manufacture them:—"For beef, take four pounds of beef, about one pound being fat. Take half a pound of the crumb of stale bread, and put it into hot water; let it remain until the meat is properly minced, then take it out without pressing any of the water from it, place it on a mixed meat, add two ounces of salt and half an ounce of white pepper; thoroughly mix together and put into well-cleaned skins. This makes six pounds. The 'sticken,' or neck of beef, is the proper thing to use."

"To make six pounds of pork sausages, take four pounds of fat and lean pork well minced, half a pound of bread soaked in hot water as above, two ounces of salt, half an ounce of pepper, and about one tablespoonful of dried sage rubbed fine; well mix and put into clean skins, as for beef. The bread in both cases must be put into the water whole."

I, T. J., who has "tried all kinds of remedies without avail," and several other correspondents ask me for cures or how to banish chilblains. Persons with a weak circulation are often sufferers, and without this constitutional tendency a still larger number of persons, full-grown and young, who, having let their feet or hands get thoroughly chilled, suddenly warm them by thrusting them close to the fire, create chilblains for themselves. Good food, warm clothing, especially warm socks and gloves, and plenty of exercise in the open air in cold, even in cold, wet weather, are the best preventives of chilblains. When your hands or feet are extremely chilled it is wise to be patient. Rub back the circulation to them if you please, but otherwise let the heat return gradually. If you have chilblains the following is a good liniment:—One teaspoonful of oil of mustard in half a pint of spirits of turpentine, mixed well, and shaken up and again for twenty-four hours, then strained off clear through muslin; keep it closely corked. Rub the liniment into the chilblains if unbroken two or three times a day. If broken, I have heard of the pulp of a well-baked turnip with a little salad oil forming a good poultice.

## GENERAL CHATTER.

Although Christmas Day was not of the old-fashioned sort, not a few of us preferred it to the ancient type. Frost and snow may be pleasant things enough in the country, but they do not add to urban happiness. Besides, on this occasion one had the comfort of reflecting that the poor were not suffering either from excessive cold or from the closing of outdoor industries. That there were some sad sufferers from poverty goes without the saying, but their number must have been considerably less than last year.

Mr. Goschen's tax on champagne did not seem to affect the consumption of that cheerful wine on the festive day. So far as my own experience went, it was on top just as freely as ever, the only difference being that the quality sometimes appeared rather inferior. In these instances, I conjecture, a lower brand had been substituted for the usual tripe, in order to escape the Goschen imposition. Fortunately, champagne is a wholesome beverage if somewhat awfully, and, really, so few people are judges of champagne that the "pious fraud" was not very sinful.

It is said that Buzard, the famous cake man in Oxford-street, disposed of eleven tons of Christmas cakes, five tons of plum puddings, and more than a ton of mince pies, besides large quantities of other seasonable delicacies. The spectacle presented by this wonderful emporium at festive seasons shows what a potent force fashion is. The goods sold there are not superior to those obtained at other first-class shops in the same business, but fashion has decreed that they are, and the great world consequently drives to Oxford-street in legions of chariots. It is amusing to see dowager duchesses trotting away with plum puddings and mince pies, and matronly marchionesses proudly bearing off captured cakes to their carriages.

A very curious coincidence has just been pointed out to me. The instalment of that exciting story, "The Madman's Wife," which appeared in our last issue, described how the lunatic husband had resolved to strangle his wife, and the preparations made to perpetrate the foul deed. Close alongside of this graphic piece of writing appeared the account of the murder of the poor creature at Poplar by strangulation. Now, the first edition of the paper went to press on Thursday night, simultaneously with the commission of the murder. It will be remembered that a somewhat similar coincidence occurred in the case of our late serial "Devlin the Barber" and the White-chapel atrocities. The mysterious murder of a woman at the East-end by stabbing formed the central point of interest in each.

"Where is Milford-lane?" is a question that has been put to me by many in connection with our new premises. It is a turning off the Strand, on the south side opposite St. Clement Danes Church; the advertising office of the *Illustrated London News* is at the right hand corner of the lane as you enter. Pass on some fifteen or twenty yards, and you come to the new "People's Palace," with its handsome frontage distinguishing it from the surrounding buildings.

The Chinese envoy who has just arrived at Gnatong to act as intermediary between the English and Tibetans presented a most imposing appearance. He was preceded by a superb retinue of Chinese military warriors, clad half in white and half in red, the great man following in a sedan chair borne by half a dozen stalwart coolies. If Mr. Augustus Harris is looking about for a striking effect to put into his next pantomime, this procession would be the very thing. Or Mr. Gilbert might turn it to account for a Chinese comic opera on the lines of "The Mikado."

Some folks are terribly hard on poor cabby; they think nothing of compelling him late at night to make a long journey in the very opposite direction to that of his stable. Not only so, but they expect him to put them out of the way, regulation, although they know full well that he has not the slightest chance of earning anything more. The public do not yet realise how poor most of these men are. Taking one day with another, their average net earnings do not amount to more than half-a-crown a day, and for that pittance they have to work for sixteen hours at a stretch.

Two friends met on Christmas Day, the one jovial, the other sad. Said Mr. Jollyboy, "Delightfully open weather, isn't it? Good news, too, about Stanley and the Sackin business." "Don't think so," replied Mr. Mulligrubs; "heavily weather, I call it, and I don't believe Stanley is all right." Why this difference of view? Simply because the one gentleman had just closed his Stock Exchange account with a profit, and the other with a loss.

A lady friend of mine was driven by a hard shower to take refuge under an arch where three matrons of unkempt appearance were holding colloquy. They talked so loudly that she could not help hearing their conversation, the burden of which was the necessity of obtaining the largest possible measure of charitable relief for a religious body. One dame complacently boasted that by alternately posing as a member of the Church of England, as a Roman Catholic, and as a Dissenter she had successfully fleeced the three denominations. Not to be beaten, another bragged that her children always enjoyed a series of Christmas and Easter feasts by ringing the changes in similar fashion. My friend, who is a benevolent party, came away sadder and a wiser woman.



Mr. Bink  
Queensland Parliament. He annoyed a colleague  
"Want tell you have a barber's bill to pay,"  
the effective job of the colleague at his smug  
[unclear] [unclear]



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PRESERVER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED  
"THE PEOPLE."—*Vicar of Wakefield, chap. 15*

## THE PAST YEAR.

Now that we are within sight of the beginning of another year it is worth while

to look back at the history of the expiring twelvemonth. What has England done, and what has been done for England during 1888, and how far are Englishmen justified in

recalling its events with any pride and pleasure? We do not hesitate to say that, on the whole, and speaking with due care to avoid exaggeration, the year has been a good year. To begin with, and this at the present stage

to begin with—and this at the present of our national history is the first and chief consideration—the end of '88, like its beginning, finds the Unionist Government still in office and firmer in their seat in the affections of the

country than ever they have been before. That such is the truth has been conclusively demonstrated by the recent Parliamentary elections, of which there

have lately been so many, and the Government may fairly be congratulated on the way in which their Parliamentary majority has resisted the usual tendency of majorities to dwindle away. In Parliament itself good

work has been done, and done in the face of the broken promises of the Opposition, who have not hesitated to resort to the unpatriotic and unpatriotic method of obstruction.

tion for party purposes. A year which has witnessed the passing of so important and a universally acceptable a measure as the Local Government Act can, under no circumstances be considered wholly unfruitful from the

legislative point of view. It is by the passing of Mr. RITCHIE's masterly bill that the year will be remembered in the annals of legislative reform. Next in importance

Mr. RITCHIE's Act comes Mr. GOSCHEN's National Debt Conversion Act. By the brilliant financial success the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER has improved the national credit and thus increased the

1 NATIONAL STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003



borrowing power of the country, besides lightening the load of the National Debt by an annual sum of nearly a million and a half. Thirdly, the continuation of the purchasing powers under Lord Ashbourne's Act, for the benefit of the Irish farmers, must not be forgotten. In spite of the disingenuous conduct of the Opposition in resisting the extension of the Act, the Government were able to prove the great desire of the Irish tenants to purchase and to carry the bill through at last, in spite of determined obstruction in committee.

Turning to the foreign relations of our country, we find a state of things which contrasts most pleasingly with that which was wont to prevail when Mr. Gladstone presided over our national destinies. The Queen's Speech at the prorogation of Parliament on Christmas Eve was able to announce the existence of perfectly satisfactory relations with all foreign Powers, and throughout the year the diplomatic horizon has been cloudless, for the rejection of the Fisheries Treaty by the American Senate, and the excitement caused by the regrettable Sackville incident, cannot be considered to have disturbed the prevailing calm in any appreciable degree. We have had a certain number of small skirmishes in Sikkim and with the men of the Black Mountain. The rebellion in Afghanistan, which might have involved us in trouble, has been suppressed by the AMER's troops, while a like fate has overtaken the attempt at rebellion by certain Zulu chiefs. General GRENFELL's brilliant little victory at Snakin concludes the list of the little wars of the year, a list short enough when one considers the vast extent and varied responsibilities of the British empire. At home all has gone well, although one must admit that much might have gone better. Ireland is still a source of trouble, as, indeed, she must be so long as her people cherish the delusive hope of Home Rule. Nevertheless, things in Ireland are distinctly better than they were a year ago, and there is good hope that the future will see even greater progress than the past in the great work of pacification. Meanwhile, trade has been steadily recovering. True, the improvement has not come upon us "by leaps and bounds," but it has come—steadily, if slowly. In every department of trade confidence has been reviving, prices have been going up, and the country's commerce has been passing out of the long period of depression which crushed it down. Finally, a mild and open winter, combined with commercial briskness, has averted that excess of suffering among the poorer classes—especially in London—which we have had to deplore in past years. Altogether, then, there is much to be thankful for in the history of 1888.

Should England become involved in a big war—which it is by no means impossible that she may at any time—we shall find that our railways and our railway men will play no inconsiderable part in it. It is, therefore, satisfactory to know that serious steps are being taken on the part of the War Office to prepare our railway men for that part. These steps are being met half-way by the railway companies in a most praiseworthy spirit. The North-Western already has a Volunteer corps of its own, and now the Great Northern has sanctioned the formation of a battalion from the number of its employees, which is to be attached to the East London Engineer Volunteers. The movement is expected to spread, and we heartily hope it may. If every railway possessed a body of men trained to military work, the benefit would be inestimable in time of war, as continental nations who possess such forces are well aware. And war may come, as we said before, at any moment; for only a spark is necessary to explode the European powder magazine.

Observers of the people of London and their way of taking their pleasure this Christmas-tide cannot fail to have experienced some mental satisfaction at the behaviour of the multitude. Never, as far as we are aware, has Christmas been observed with less drunkenness, disorder, and debauchery than on the present occasion. The police reports, which are unerring witnesses to the holiday behaviour of the masses, only chronicle the average, or less than the average, daily number of charges, while the state of the streets has been, on the whole, excellent. The fact of the matter is that London people are gradually learning to spend their holidays better than they used to do. They go out to see sights and take trips by rail instead of staying at home to get drunk. This pleasing change is largely due to the institution of bank holidays, which has accustomed Londoners (and Englishmen generally) to taking holidays, and has taught them that intoxication is not the only form of enjoyment open to a man with money to spend. We have noted the change with pleasure, and we congratulate our fellow-citizens upon it.

#### SUBURBAN STREET LIGHTING.

Owing to the high price charged by the companies supplying gas to the parishes of Finsbury, Barnet, and Haringey, and their refusal to make what the local governing authorities consider a reasonable charge for street lighting, the local boards of health of Finsbury and Barnet have now obtained tenders for lighting the streets of a portion of their district with new patent oil lamps, and the prices quoted by the firms submitting the tenders are considerably below those charged by the gas companies. Barnet has already abandoned gas for street lighting, but instead of using oil they now have their thoroughfares lighted with electricity. The parishes of Finsbury and Haringey, however, are much more straggling than that of Barnet, and consequently the expense of electric lighting is considered to be a subject for consideration in the future rather than at present, and therefore the only other way open by which the authorities think they may force the gas companies to lower their prices is by using oil. The yearly sum paid by both these parishes is considerable, necessitating a heavy rate; and, notwithstanding this, the companies refuse to contract for a sum anywhere near that charged in other parishes, and the consequence is that, in order to save expenditure, the local boards give strict orders for the lamps to be turned out after the arrival of the last train from the City, and also on moonlight nights. The hour at which the gas is turned out and the "moonlight night" arrangement causes much dissatisfaction in the parishes.

#### THE POPLAR TRAGEDY.

##### Identification of the Victim.

The police have succeeded in establishing the identity of the unfortunate woman who was murdered in Clarke's Yard, High-street, Poplar, and whose name was Poplar, by the name of Downe, and in White-chapel, which it has been discovered was the last neighbourhood in which she resided, by the name of Davis. Both these, however, were assumed names. The police secured the attendance at the Poplar mortuary on Christmas Day of Elizabeth Usher, the head nurse at the Bromley Sick Asylum, where the deceased woman was stated to have been an inmate. Miss Usher immediately recognised the woman as Rose Mylett, who had been an inmate of that institution on many occasions. Little doubt is entertained that the name under which Miss Usher recognised her is her real name, for the books of the asylum were referred to, and it was discovered that she last entered the asylum on the 20th of January, 1888, and discharged herself on the 14th of March. On each occasion she went in under the same name. The deceased had informed most of her acquaintances that she had a mother living in Baker's-row, or Old Montague-street, Spitalfields. The police, however, failed to discover any relative in that neighbourhood, but have found that the deceased resided in a common lodging-house in George-street, Spitalfields. This house is next door to the lodging-house in which the last victim of the Whitechapel murderer lived. Mary Smith, the deputy at this establishment, described the deceased as being "a very respectable person." She said the deceased had lodged with her for about three months, and had, until within the last fortnight, had a companion in a man named Goodson, but this man had not seen the deceased for the past two weeks. The last time Mrs. Smith saw the deceased was on the night of the 17th inst., when between six and seven o'clock, Rose Mylett left for Poplar, Mrs. Smith giving her two pence to pay her tram fare. The deceased was seen the same evening about midnight by Jenny Hill. At half-past two she was seen in Commercial-road by Alice Groves, who lodged with the deceased at 18, George-street, outside the George with two men, apparently seamen. When seen by these two women she was the worse for liquor. A young girl, residing in High-street, Poplar, named Nell Green, has been seen, regarding two men, apparently sailors, whom she saw under suspicious circumstances near the scene of the murder. She says that a short time before Sergeant Golding found the body of Rose Mylett two sailors came up to her in a great hurry in the High-street, and inquired the way to the West India Docks. She directed them, whereupon one of the men said to the other, "Make haste, Bill, and we shall be in time to catch the ship." The police are endeavouring to follow up this clue; but their endeavours have not been successful.

##### More About the Murdered Woman.

The police have succeeded in finding Mrs. Mylett, the mother of the woman found dead in Clarke's Yard, Poplar, last week. The deceased woman had frequently spoken of her mother living somewhere near Baker's-row, Whitechapel, and it was near this thoroughfare—in Pelham-street—that Mrs. Mylett was found dead. When the detective called at the house on Boxing Day he found the inmates enjoying a Christmas party, and upon their stating the object of their visit one of the women had a serious fit. Upon visiting the mortuary Mrs. Mylett had no doubt that the body there was that of her daughter. She stated that she last saw the deceased alive on the 16th ult., when she called at Pelham-street. The mother had frequently remonstrated with her daughter upon her mode of life, but without success. On Thursday evening, Mrs. Mylett, who is an Irishwoman, stated that her daughter was born in London. Some years ago Rose (the deceased) married, unknown to her mother, a man named Davis, whom Mrs. Mylett believed was an upholsterer. The young couple had one child, but as they frequently disagreed they separated. This child is now in the South Metropolitan School, at Sutton, and is about 7 years of age. A curious fact in reference to the woman having a child is that Dr. Brownfield, who at the inquest expressed the opinion that the deceased had never been a mother. A man named Charles Ptolemy, who is a lunatic attendant at the Poplar Union, has now come forward and made a statement to the effect that he saw the deceased on the night of her death near Clarke's Yard having an altercation with two men who appeared to be sailors. This bears out the assertion of a woman named Alice Groves, who knew the deceased well. She says that she saw the woman walking alone in a very drunken state, arm-in-arm with two men dressed as seamen. This is practically the only clue, if such it can be called, that the police have.

#### STRUGGLE WITH GAROTTERS IN EUSTON-ROAD.

Shortly after eleven o'clock on Sunday night, as Police-constable Collins, 380 Y, was passing through the Euston-road in plain clothes, his attention was attracted by the suspicious movements of four men. He determined to watch them, and presently saw them attack a gentleman named Casey from behind in a dark portion of the thoroughfare near the Midland Railway. Collins at once went to the rescue and seized one of the men, who was above Casey rifling his pockets. A desperate struggle ensued, and Collins blowing his whistle, two constables in uniform came up and gave chase to the three other men, who made off. Collins then received a blow on the head from some blunt instrument. The man who struck him escaped, but did not get very far before Collins, who is a swift runner, overtook him, and a desperate struggle took place, in the course of which the garrotter lost the right sleeve of his coat and a portion of his trousers. Both men after rolling in the road, were literally covered with mud. All this time the man Casey was lying in an insensible condition with a severe cut on the back of the head. He had lost 14s. from his trousers pocket; 9s. 6d. was afterwards found in the road, where it had been thrown by one of the garotters.

#### THE LIFE OF MAN TRAGEDY.

At Ramsey, Isle of Man, an inquiry was opened by the high bailiff in the Court House, which was densely crowded, touching the death of Elizabeth Crowe, who was found brutally murdered in a narrow bye-path near Ramsey, which leads to several small farmhouses situated on the hills on the south side of the town. John Henry Jelling, who resides with his mother about 200 yards from where the deceased lived, was placed in the dock charged on suspicion with being connected with the crime. He is a strong, well-built young man, about 20 years of age, and pre-empted perfect silence during the inquiry. Mr. Nelson prosecuted for the Crown, and Mr. F. M. Lamotha appeared for the defence. Inspector Cannell's evidence proved the finding of the body. He described wounds on the head which could not possibly have been caused by accident. He also proved that the body was carefully laid aside after the murder. The police had further evidence pointing suspiciously to the prisoner. He applied for a remand, which was granted for one week.—The prisoner was removed to Castle Rushen.

#### THE CRUISER CHAMPION.

Her Majesty's cruiser Champion was officially inspected at Sheerness on Thursday by Admiral Lethbridge, commander-in-chief at the North, and she is ordered to sail on Saturday for the Pacific Station. The Champion has been refitted at a cost of £20,000, and has been supplied with a new armament, consisting of four 6-inch and eight 5-inch breech-loading guns, four three-pounder quick-firing guns, four machine-guns, and two torpedo-tubes. She is as powerful in every respect as any

#### STRANGE STORY OF A CONVICT.

A despatch from Chicago, dated December 14th, which appears in the New York World, says:—"William Thomas, who was pardoned by Governor Oglesby yesterday, after serving six of the seventeen years to which he was sentenced for murder, will return to Chicago to-morrow. The story of the crime for which Thomas has suffered is a strange one, and furnished the plot for 'His Broken Sword,' a novel by Miss W. L. Taylor. In February, 1880, Hiram P. Allen, a wealthy farmer, living near Sandwich, Illinois, was murdered at night in his home by burglars. It was supposed that half-a-dozen young men living in and near Sandwich were arrested, including one or two admirers of Miss Libbie, daughter of the murdered man, and witness of the crime. No guilt was fastened on them, and they were released. The case was taken up by a Chicago detective agency, and William Thomas, 20 years old, was arrested in his brother's saloon here. At the same time, Clarence Woodworth, also of Chicago, was arrested, charged with Allen's murder. Thomas, for a fortnight, and despite his strong protestations of innocence, was sent to Joliet Prison for seventeen years. Woodworth proved an alibi. The most important witness was Miss Libbie Allen, who swore she recognised Thomas's voice as one she heard during the scuffle between her father and his murderers. Another witness who implicated Thomas was the notorious Cora Munn, of Chicago, formerly a detective and later a revivalist. As a detective she formed the acquaintance of Thomas, and when he was in the prison she heard them talk of their part in the tragedy. Thomas's father, mother, and sister swore positively that he was at home on the night of the murder, occupying a bed with his father. Thomas donned the stripes and began his long term. No hope came to him until two years ago, when James Young, a fellow-convict, sent for the prison officials and made a confession, declaring himself the murderer of Hiram P. Allen, detailing all the circumstances, but holding back the name of his accomplice. Young pleaded guilty to the murder, and was sentenced to life imprisonment. This apparently heavy penalty Young did not dread, for he knew death would soon release him. A year ago he died of consumption, leaving to the public confession which excited great interest. Two men were suffering from the same deed who had never met until in the convict ranks. Governor Oglesby was in a dilemma, for Thomas's friends demanded his immediate pardon. A theory was promulgated that Young and Thomas had formed a strong mutual affection in prison, and that the former, knowing that he was doomed to speedy death, had made the confession to save Thomas. Governor Oglesby, however, at last concluded that Young had told the truth and issued the pardon. Mrs. Allen and daughter, Libbie, and Clarence Woodworth are living here. Cora Munn is still here, and several others whose names were connected with the case have forsaken Sandwich for Chicago."

#### SERIOUS ASSAULT BY A POACHER.

Edward Black, a labourer, was brought up in custody at the Faversham County Police Court, charged with having, on the 16th inst., unlawfully and maliciously wounded Chapman de Laune, Faunce de Laune, a justice of the peace, with a gun. The prosecutor appeared in court with a head bandaged, and was seeking to the evidence given by him was to the effect that on the Sunday afternoon mentioned, between three and four, he was walking over his estate at Little Rishett, and heard men and dogs in the direction of the road, but owing to the fog he did not see them. Presently he saw the prisoner with a gun searching about the hedges and went to him and told him he had caught him at last, adding that as he was searching for game with a gun on Sunday he must give the weapon up. Witness laid his hand on the gun, but as the prisoner seemed determined to retain it, witness let go and stepped aside. Just as he did so he felt a push at his side, and then a blow on his head. Blood commenced to pour over his face and eyes, and he looked up and saw the prisoner about to strike him again; he was grasping the barrel of his gun with both hands, and the stock was over his shoulder. Prosecutor jumped aside and ran away. The prosecutor added that he had been confined to his house ever since.—Dr. Phelps, of Green-street, stated that Mr. de Laune had a cut on his head two inches long, and reaching to the bone.—Witnesses were called, who proved seeing the prisoner with a gun on the 16th inst.—Prisoner denied striking the prosecutor deliberately.—He was committed for trial.

#### THE OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

The thirty-first annual report of the deputation under the statute of the delegates in local examinations for the present year has been issued. It states that the examinations were held at both June and July, beginning on June 4th and July 16th respectively, and were held at 65 centres, of which 23 were special local centres, at which school examinations were combined with the local examinations, and nine were new centres. The examinations in June were held at nine centres, at three of which both boys and girls, at one boys only, and at five girls only, were examined. The number of candidates in 1888 was 2,964—namely, 1,583 juniors and 1,381 seniors. The examinations in July were held at 42 centres, at 34 of which both boys and girls, at 15 boys only, and at seven girls only, were examined. The number of local candidates examined in July was 2,640—namely, 1,901 juniors and 739 seniors. The total number of candidates examined in 1888 was 2,904—namely, 2,089 juniors and 815 seniors. Of these 1,406 juniors and 587 seniors passed, making a total of 1,993. In addition to these, five persons who intended to become medical students were admitted to the junior examination, and four persons who intended to present themselves for the degree of bachelor of music were admitted to the senior examination, of whom one passed. The total number of candidates and other persons entered for the examinations was 2,980, of whom 67 failed to present themselves for examination, and one was disqualified for having taken unfair advantage during the examination. The results of the examination in 1887 and 1888 respectively are as follows:—In 1887, 2,799 juniors and 508 seniors were examined, 1,787 of whom 842 boys and 318 girls, making a total of 1,160, passed; 332 senior boys and 484 senior girls—total, 816—were examined, of whom 244 boys and 330 girls—total, 574—passed. In 1888 these were—examined, 1,340 junior boys and 749 junior girls—total, 2,089—of whom 908 boys and 398 girls—total, 1,306—passed; 276 senior boys and 339 senior girls—total, 615—were examined, of whom 192 boys and 388 girls—total, 580—passed. In 1888, of the senior candidates, three girls were in the first class, nine in the second, and 22 in the third; of the juniors, two girls were placed in the first, 17 in the second, and 39 in the third class. Of the 86 seniors (10.5 per cent.) who failed in preliminary subjects, 38 failed in grammar, &c., and 58 in arithmetic. Of those who failed in one preliminary subject only 27 failed in grammar and 47 in arithmetic. Of the 229 juniors (11 per cent.) who failed in one preliminary subject, 38 failed in grammar, and 125 in arithmetic. Of those who failed in one preliminary subject only 15 failed in dictation, 35 in grammar, and 122 in arithmetic. Twenty-two of the senior boys showed sufficient merit to be excused from responses, and 12 of the senior girls for exemption from the first examination for women. Last year 38 boys and 16 girls received exemption.

#### THE VACANCY AT GOVAN.

On Thursday evening the Govan Liberal Unionists and Conservatives met in the Glasgow Imperial Club to decide who should be their candidate for the vacancy caused by the death of Sir William Pearce. Mr. Alexander Stephen was asked to come forward, but in the course of the day he intimated that his final decision was that he would not contest the seat. Sir John Pender will, therefore, be the Unionist candidate. The Conservative candidate is Mr. Wilson.

#### A MAN IN WOMAN'S CLOTHES.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court on Thursday, Charles Phillips, 18, a painter, was charged with being disorderly in A-street, Piccadilly, shortly before eleven o'clock on Wednesday night.—Police-constable Barnard said that the prisoner was in Regent-street, wearing woman's clothing. He was dancing in the midst of a crowd of people, and afterwards caused another crowd to collect in A-street. He refused to go away, and was taken into custody. The prisoner, in his defence, said he had his trousers on at the time, and was not aware that he was doing any harm. He called a witness to speak to his respectability. Mr. Newton observed that he saw a great deal of harm in the matter, and he should remand the accused for a week for inquiries to be made respecting him. Later in the day, however, the prisoner was again brought up, and was discharged with a caution.

#### A POSTAL EXPERIMENT.

A correspondent sent from Hongkong two post cards, addressed to himself, to care of a friend in Hong Kong, sending one via Brindisi and Singapore, and the other via New York, San Francisco and Yokohama, requesting his correspondent in Hong Kong to re-address them back to him, but sending each by the opposite route to that by which they went out from London. He now states that both both cards returned to him again on Christmas Eve, the one which went out eastward on October 12th reaching Hong Kong November 15th, and was despatched back thence on November 17th; while the one westward, leaving London on October 10th, reached Hong Kong on November 13rd, and was despatched on November 25th. The former took seventy-three days and the latter seventy-five days for the round journey, and the entire cost on the former card was only 2d., and the latter 1d.

#### COULDN'T EAT HIM.

Particulars have been received from Cooktown of the murder at New Guinea of Captain Ansell, of the ketch Star of Pease. When near Milne Bay, Captain Ansell, who was a middle-aged man, a quiet manner, and inoffensive in his habits, went ashore to collect copra, and mixed among the natives as usual without fear. He was without arms, and when fairly in their midst the natives caught hold of him. He struggled desperately, but the odds were too great, and he finally succumbed. The natives who gave this information say that he was tapped and found to be unseizable, and so they buried him. Another man who was with Ansell (it is not known whether he was a white or a Malay) was also killed. The ketch was robbed of her trade tobacco, prints, &c., and everything of any value, and then burnt. Her Majesty's ship Rapid had gone to investigate the affair, Captain Robinson, part owner of the ketch, being on board.

#### WORKING MEN'S CLUBS.

At the Worship-street Police Court John Jones, 42, and Alfred Carter, 29, described as French polishers, refusing their addresses, were charged on remand with having been concerned with others in the robbery of a man named M'Donald, a grocer, of Priory Park-road, Kilburn, and robbing him of about £11 in gold; and Richard Tice, 40, a cabman, was also brought up charged with complicity. Mr. Purcell, barrister, defended Jones. The prisoners were before the court last week, when the prosecutor said he was at one o'clock in the morning in Curtain-road, Shoreditch, and went to a cabman on the rank and said he wanted to be taken to Kilburn. The cabman induced him to go to a place called the Brington Club, Rivington-street, Shoreditch, and there he treated the cabman and others. He also admitted that he tossed for drinks, and on finally leaving the club, of which he was not a member, he found that he was followed by a number of men who on the steps of the place attacked him, and whilst some held him others rifled his pockets and stole about £11 in gold. Jones was principally spoken to by the prosecutor as the leader in the attack, and the prosecutor said that he had seized Jones's hands and recovered from him the major part of the stolen money. Jones, 42, corroborated the prosecutor's evidence, and said Jones, 40, participated in the attack, saying that he saw that prisoner knock M'Donald down twice. He seized Jones, and blew his whistle, whereupon he was attacked by Carter, who pulled his whistle away. The constable, with Detective Carter, had been watching the prosecutor with the cabman, and had seen them go into the club. Carter arrested Carter later, and said that he saw him in the crowd, and spoke to him. Tice was sworn to by the cabman, who took prosecutor down to the club. The latter, cross-examined by Mr. Purcell, was asked as to many matters said to have taken place in the club, but he generally said that he remembered nothing of the matter, being, as he admitted, the worse for drink.—Detective Scott, G Division, was made a witness as to the character of the place, and he said that he had known the place for about twelve months. He said there was a billiard-room on the ground floor, beer being the same being on the first floor. In that room there was a telegraph machine for the betting men, tables for gaming, &c. Above that he thought the rooms were lumber rooms, though he had seen up there a sack filled with straw, used by the boxing men when training for boxing matches to punch their heads. When the boxing matches took place there were a great many men in the room, and were known as "fancy dress balls." Men and women were there then. There were a great many clubs in the district of the court. The Excise had not interfered with them, but witness knew that Mr. Purcell's witness was speaking from his own knowledge, having been in the place three or four times with other constables. He had never interfered with the place. The police were doing their duty in the matter, but the authorities allowed these places to go on. The police would not suggest that the place neglected their duty. His client was a respectable man, and he would show that this club had been in existence for years, and therefore might be supposed to be such a place as a respectable man might go to.—Replying to the magistrate, the witness Scott said he had only known the place a year, but from the correspondence thought it must have been going on for years.—The Magistrate: What do you mean by the correspondence? Witness: Correspondence to the chief commissioner about this place.—Mr. Purcell: From publicans?—Witness: Yes and others.—Mr. Montagu Williams said that he should send this evidence with the case in order that the matter might go before the judge at the trial.—Mr. Purcell said that if the magistrate had made up his mind to send the prisoners for trial he would reserve the defence of Jones. He could call evidence to character.—Mr. Scott said that Jones had refused his address.—Mr. Montagu Williams, in administering the formal caution to the prisoners, said that he should send them for trial to the Central Criminal Court for night-way robbery with violence, because, if they were convicted, the judge there had power to order them corporal punishment, as well as sending them to penal servitude.—Jones now offered his address, so that the police could make inquiries about him.—Carter denied the charge, and asked for bail.—The police said that prisoner had been convicted of felony, though he was acting as cabman at the time, and asked for bail, but was convicted of felony. The magistrate directed that fact to be proved at the trial. He refused bail for any of the prisoners, who were then committed to the Old Bailey.

#### SUICIDE OF A SOLDIER.

Considerable excitement has been caused in the garrison at Hounslow by the suicide, under romantic circumstances, of a private belonging to the infantry depot. James Parsons, of the Royal Fusiliers, having obtained his pass for the Christmas holidays, was awaiting a letter from his sweetheart at Havant before starting on his furlough. The letter not arriving, he became very depressed, and expressed an opinion that he was going to the military mortuary. The deceased, who was 25 years of age, had seen five years' service in the Royal Fusiliers, and had seen active service in Egypt during the last battalion of that regiment. It is a curious coincidence that Parsons was with a sergeant of the Fusiliers who committed self-destruction in a similar manner in the same barracks a year ago. The deceased bore a good military character, and was much liked by his comrades.—At the inquest a verdict of suicide was returned.

#### THE MURDER AT SPALDING.

At Deeping St. James, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, the inquest on the body of Phoebe Bennett, 45, wife of Thomas Bennett, 56, who is in custody on the charge of the wilful murder of his wife, on the 24th inst., was held at the Spalding division. It was shown that the couple had lived on very unhappy terms for a considerable time, and that both were much addicted to drink. The husband returned from the neighbouring market on Saturday day intoxicated, and a quarrel ensued, the woman, being severely ill-treated, went to bed, and the husband sleeping in a separate room, and in the morning, after he had left for work, the woman was found lying on the bed quite dead. Thomas Bennett, upon being taken into custody on the charge of wilful murder, made a statement, but the police not having first cautioned him the coroner declined to receive it. A post mortem examination had been made, and the medical evidence was to the effect that syncope was the cause of her death, she being affected with heart disease. The syncope was stated to have been brought on by the violence to which the woman was subjected. The jury returned a verdict of murder, after consulting Thomas Bennett.

#### SUPPOSED MURDER.

An inquest was held at Armagh on Thursday on an Army pensioner, named Boyers, who is alleged to have died from injuries inflicted on him by a man named Price, who, with his brother has been arrested. The Prices are Roman Catholics, and the deceased was a Protestant, and a party element was introduced into the case, all the Catholics with two Protestants voting for an open verdict, which was accepted.

#### THE GENTLEMAN AND HIS BUTLER.

James Eldridge, 44, a butler, of Barton-crescent, Euston-square, was charged on remand at Marlborough-street on Thursday with stealing an overcoat, worth £1, the property of Henry Gwynne Owen, a gentleman, residing at 17, Cavendish-place, Cavendish-square.—The prosecutor said the prisoner had been in his service as a butler. On the evening of the 23rd inst., he went on the Marlborough-lane Police Station, and there found the prisoner talking to the inspector on duty. He went to the station with a view of getting a letter which the prisoner had in his possession, and he found Eldridge talking to the same inspector who took the charge against him for stealing a letter, which charge was dismissed. He looked at the overcoat the prisoner was wearing and thought it was his (the prosecutor's) property. He returned to his residence and searched his bed-room, the kitchen, and elsewhere, but could not find his overcoat—it had gone. When next day he charged the prisoner with stealing the coat he said it was his own coat, which had been in pawn for twelve months, and had only then been taken out. He then gave the man into custody. In the course of cross-examination the prosecutor spoke of a lady who kept his house. Clothes had been given away, but never a coat. He had given nobody else any authority to give the coat away. When recalled he stated that he found a tab inside the breast pocket of the coat bearing his name and the date (26. 3. 86) when it was made.—Some other evidence as to the making of the coat having been given, Mr. De Rutzen recalled the prosecutor, and said: I suppose you, like everybody else, in course of time get a superfluity of clothes. What do you do with them?—I go out periodically (said the prosecutor) to Cape Colony and take my old things and give them away. Do you ever give them away? I don't think I ever give them away or sell them.—Well, if you don't give away your coat, must have a large establishment in which to keep them? I have. But do you mean what I do with them in Cape Colony, or what I do with them in England? I have only been in England five years.—Mr. De Rutzen: You decline to answer me, then—stand down.—The Prosecutor: I am willing to answer.—Mr. De Rutzen: Stand down, and reserve his defence.—Mr. De Rutzen sent the case for trial.

#### THE CHARGE AGAINST A "COUNT."

Charles Rosenberg, alias Count de Rivier, a German, was charged on remand at the Marlborough-street Police Court on Thursday, with stealing on the 3rd inst. a silver-mounted Gladstone bag, valued at £44, and belonging to Messrs. Thornhill and Co., New Bond-street.—According to the evidence, when the prisoner was arrested, he ordered the bag in question to be sent to the Hotel Bristol. The order was duly carried out, but the bag had not been paid for, though the accused had been in the hotel for 18 months, and had removed to the Hotel Metropole. He also told Sergeant Cousins, who arrested him, that he had not the Count de Rivier, and that he had not been staying at the Hotel Bristol. He, however, denied all intention of stealing, and said that he had plenty of money at the time he ordered the bag. Mr. T. Lumley appeared to prosecute; and Mr. Bathurst Norman for the defence.—Mr. Denham, manager, to Messrs. Leuchars, of Piccadilly, gave evidence, and was presently ordering a bag of him, worth £21. It was taken to the Hotel a few days ago, and left there, on the understanding that the money would be forthcoming at once, but it had not been paid. When Mr. Denham called on the prisoner, the latter showed him Messrs. Thornhill's bag, and stated that he had obtained it on approval. He said he could sell it for £45 and make a good profit.—Mr. Zimmerman, Messrs. Thornhill's manager, said he did not know the Count de Rivier, and he did not know the man who was in receipt of £1,000 a year, but he had heard a letter to that effect read at the station.—Mr. Lumley said he had another charge to prefer, and should like a remand for that purpose.—Detective-inspector Stroud also asked for a remand, as the police had received many complaints about the prisoner, and Mr. Norman said his client was well conducted, and could, no doubt, find substantial bail.—Mr. Newton granted a remand, fixing the bail at two sureties of £500, and the accused himself in £1,000.

#### COUNTERFEIT COINS AT ISLINGTON.

James Time, 38, decorator, giving an address in Stamford-street, Blackfriars-road, and James Carney, 29, a spring-maker, of London-road, Liverpool, were brought up, on remand, at the Dalston Police Court, charged with being concerned together in knowingly uttering counterfeit coin.—It may be remembered that the 19th prisoner Carney entered the Northampton Arms, Essex-road, in payment for a glass of ale, and found a florin, which was subsequently found to be counterfeit. Carney was subsequently found to be a counterfeiter. He was followed by Henry Stevens, the barman. He was sent to join Times, and after they had looked into several public-houses the police were informed and Carney was arrested. Times went off and was pursued by Stevens, who saw him enter a mess, where six counterfeit coins were subsequently found concealed. Times was arrested, and then the mess, and the other, did not deny all knowledge of the matter.—The prisoners both said they were innocent, but Mr. Williams sent them for trial.

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**Middlesex Sessions.**  
(Before Mr. Waddy, Q.C.)

**City Summons Court.**

**Mansion House.**

Marlborough-street.

**Marylebone.**

**Clerkenwell.**

## Thames.

**Worship-street.**

**Westminster.**

**A COOL CUSTOMER.**—Charles Norman, 45

**Lambeth.**

**Southwark.**

## Hammersmith

**PARISH PROSECUTION.**—Mark Joseph Ryan, w

**Stratford.**

## Dalston

Mandsworth

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**FALL DOWN A LIFT.**—Mr. Wynne E. Bart

**FOUND DROWNED IN THE SERPENTINE.**—Mr. John Troutbeck, coroner, held an inquiry at the board-room, Ebury Bridge, Piccadilly, concerning the death of John William Soar, aged 61 years, a housekeeper, lately residing at 59A, Fernhead road, Queen's Park, who was found drowned in the Serpentine. John Soar had been deceased, it was stated, for at least six months, and his body was discovered on Saturday night outside their house. He then walked away, and never returned. He had never threatened to commit suicide, and was on good terms with his family.—Thomas Price, a footman, living in Hobart-road, Kensington, deposed that at midday on Thursday he was rowing on the Serpentine in Hyde Park when he saw the body of the deceased floating under the arch of the west bridge. He gave information to the boatmen, who removed the body to the mortuary. The weather had been foggy early in the week. Dr. J. H. Blissett, a divisional surgeon, who examined the body, said it had been immersed for two or three days. The cause of death was drowning.—The jury returned a verdict of found drowned.

Mr. C. V. Young, solicitor, made application to Mr. Bros. at Dalston Police Court on Saturday, for a warrant for the apprehension of a young lady. The circumstances were these:—Edward Marshall, a jobmaster of that district, had been engaged to be married to a Miss Alice Walker, a barmaid at the Clarendon, Mile End way Park-road, and since October had engaged rooms and been purchasing goods for use and also presents for the girl. On Friday last she was taken by him to St. John's Church, Islington, the appointment being for 2.30. Bridegrooms, said Mr. Young, were usually first at the church, but Mr. Marshall waited long after that hour, and then he went in search of his affianced. He found that the whole story she had told him as to her relatives, &c., was false, and further, that she had been to the lodging which he had taken and removed her own luggage, together with the presents he had given her, and other things belonging to himself. He did not know where she was. Mr. Bros.: What do you allege? Mr. Young: On Thursday last, after the marriage she went to my client and got 12s. with which to purchase a pair of boots in which to be decently married. There is no doubt this was a system of living upon this man and trading upon his affections, and at the last moment withdrawing from her promise of marriage.—Mr. Bros. I am averse to granting warrants, and perhaps Marshall is well rid of her.—Mr. Young: There is a specific charge of theft, because she took away a cloth jacket which he had bought for her, but had not given her.—Mr. Bros. Well, you say she is responsible upon herself of giving her into custody.—Mr. Young: But we might get her better with a warrant.—Mr. Bros. Your client, no doubt, wants his revenge for being filted; but he must take his own course. I decline to grant a warrant.

**PEARS' SOAP.**

**PEARS' SOAP**  
For the  
HANDS.

**PEARS' SOAP**  
For the  
FACE.

**PEARS' SOAP**  
For the  
NECK.

**PEARS' SOAP**

**TESTIMONIALS FROM THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.**  
From Professor SIR ERASMUS WILSON, Professor of Dermatology, Royal College of Surgeons of England (in the "Journal of Cutaneous Medicine.")  
"The use of a good Soap is certainly calculated to preserve the skin in health to maintain its complexion and tone, and prevent its falling into wrinkles. PEAR'S SOAP is ever so near the memory of the oldest inhabitants of the Isle of Wight. Parent Soap is an article of the nicest and most careful manufacture, and the most refreshing and agreeable of balms for the skin."

For the  
ARMS,  
PEARS' SOAP

Dr. TILBURY-FOX, late Physician to the Skin Department, University College Hospital, London. "PEARS' SOAP is the best Soap made."—Vide Tilbury-Fox on the "Skin," p. 509.

For the  
FEET.

**PEARL SOAP**

For the  
BATH.

**PEARL SOAP**

FAIR  
WHITE HANDS.

Mr. JOHN L. MILTON, Senior Surgeon, St. John's Hospital for the Skin in London. From the "Hygiene of the Skin." "From time to time I have tried many different Soaps, and I have not after fifteen years careful trial in many hundreds of cases, both in Hospital and Private Practice, no effluvia in giving my verdict to the best that nothing but PEARL SOAP so well and so proved so beneficial to the skin, as PEARL'S TRANSPARENT SOAP."

**PEARS' SOAP**  
BRIGHT,  
CLEAR COM-  
PLEXION.

**PEARS' SOAP**

**SOFT, HEALTH-  
FUL SKIN.**

**PEARS' SOAP**

**TESTIMONY OF POPULAR FAVOURITES.**  
ADELINA PATTI writes:—"I have  
found PEAR'S SOAP matchless for the  
hands and complexion."  
(Signed)

Prevents  
**ROUGHNESS.**

**P**EAR'S SOAP  
Prevents

ADRIANA PATTI.

Mrs. LANGTRY writes:—"I have much pleasure in stating I have used PEAR'S SOAP for some time, and prefer it to any other."

**REDNESS.** (Signed)  
LESLIE LANGSTON.

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**PEARL SOAP** Miss MARY ANDERSON writes:  
Prevents "I have used it two years with the  
CHAPPING greatest satisfaction, for I find it is the

**PEARS' SOAP**  
ALWAYS  
AGREEABLE.

**PEARS' SOAP**  
ALWAYS  
SAFE.

**PEARS' SOAP** is sold everywhere  
Tablets, 1s. each. Larger sizes 1s. 6d.  
and 2s. 6d. (The 2s. 6d. Tablet is per-  
fumed with Otto of Roses. A small  
Tablet, unscented, is sold at 6d.) In-  
stead of having Pears' as a vilely injurious in-

ations are often substituted for ext  
gain, even by dealers who would  
thought "respectable," some of who  
attract the public into their shops  
stores by marking PEARS' Soap at  
than cost price, and then recommen  
which has set out a lar

ALWAYS  
DELUSION







## "THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Mr. Philip Henry Muntz, late M.P. for Birmingham, died on Tuesday at the age of 78. The number of papers in London is 100,706, as compared with 101,332 last year.

Dr. Stubbs has been elected Bishop of Oxford by the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church. A severe snowstorm commenced on Wednesday at Wick.

Madame Flouquet has popularised the Christmas tree in Paris.

A judge of the Supreme Court in Australia goes circuit on a bicycle.

The stories as to the Empress of Russia's health are canards. She is quite well.

The occupants of the Government bench in South Australia sometimes sit in Parliament in their shirt sleeves.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and one of their daughters will visit Middlesbrough on January 23rd.

Isaac S. Dement, of Chicago, is the fastest stenographer in the United States. He recently took down 1,337 words in five minutes.

Last year 47,329,000 oysters were brought to the English market. This season, up to November, the number was only 26,190,000.

The annual yield of oysters in the United States and Canada exceeds at the present time—so it is said—5,500,000 individual molluscs.

A gang of counterfeit coiners were on Wednesday apprehended at Lumphinnans, a mining village in the heart of Fifehire.

Dubois, a pointman, residing between Paris and Belfort, is dead. The murderer crept stealthily to his hut, and fired two shots into the unfortunate fellow.

One of the voracious stories circulating in New York is that the Duchess of Cambridge pays a well-known vocalist \$4,000 a year for singing to her every day.

Twenty-five years after the burial of \$19,000 by a Virginian, a Baltimore woman located the spot in a dream, and next day took two witnesses with her and dug up the coin.

During the first eleven months of this year, the value of the pedigree horses and cattle which were exported was £296,134, as compared with £269,206 last year and £231,186 in 1886.

Unfavourable rumours, based apparently on private letters, are in circulation respecting the health of the crews of German war vessels on the East African coast. One ship is reported to be returning with some malaria-stricken sailors.

The death is announced of the eldest son of the Amer of Bokhara. The prince was to have shortly accompanied a special embassy from his father to St. Petersburg, where he was destined to enter one of the Russian schools.

The annual presentation of joints of beef, amounting to some 120 stone, to the labourers on the Sandringham estate, took place on Monday afternoon in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales and guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain arrived in Birmingham on Monday. The time for their arrival was kept secret, and there was, consequently, no demonstration. They spent Christmas at Mr. Chamberlain's residence at Highbury.

John Martin, a Chicago engineer, lodged at the house of a Mrs. B. W. Merrill. He became enamoured of his landlady. When his attentions became unbearable, and she forbade him the house, he shot her dead.

A woman's league has been formed in New Orleans. One of its objects is to look in a large and practical way after the interests of women—as to how they are treated in asylums, prisons, stores, station-houses, &c.

Seaman Valentine went into an Aberdeen restaurant and deliberately kissed the barmaid. When the magistrate fined him £3 he vehemently protested against the price put upon what he called "his innocent frolic."

The authorities at the prison in Nashville, Tennessee, discovered, concealed on the persons of convicts, and in beds, between fifty and sixty knives, fifteen razors, one revolver, and three ropes.

The annual statement of the distribution of the British Army shows we have 74,550 regular troops in India and 28,000 in Ireland. The latter figure is rather higher than it was at Christmas a year ago. The strength of the whole Army is about 211,000 men.

Inquests have been held on two children who were burned to death. A little boy, 3 years of age, at Fulham, upset a paraffin lamp, and was so severely burned that he shortly afterwards died.

A girl, 6 years old, at Mile End, accidentally set her night-dress on fire, and died the same day from the injuries she received.

General Boulanger has definitely declared his intention of offering himself as a deputy for Paris in the place of the late M. Hude. The general says he is quite confident of the result, and feels sure he will be elected by a large majority over any opponent whom the Government may bring forward.

At Glasshouse Colliery, near Normanton, a serious accident occurred. Ten miners were descending the shaft in a cage, when the return cage struck the gear, and the men going down were thrown upon the grating at the bottom of the shaft. Five miners were seriously injured, and several others had narrow escapes.

As two gentlemen, attended by Archibald Munro, were out shooting on one of the Sallachy Hills, Munro was accidentally and fatally shot, the contents of one of the guns striking him in the knee. Sallachy is some distance from Inverary, and Munro expired as soon as he had reached home from the severe shock and loss of blood. He was 29 years of age.

The Ada, a vessel plying from Exeter to Harwich, wholly wrecked near Abbotsbury, Dorset, on Thursday. The whole of the crew was lost, together with the cargo, which was composed of petroleum. Nearly the whole of the cargo had come ashore, and also a piece of timber with the name of the vessel rudely and evidently in haste carved upon it.

Thaddeus Harris, a private soldier in the Cameron Highlanders, was at Aberdeen sentenced to four months' imprisonment for theft committed in November last. At the time of the theft a detachment from the regiment was stationed at Ballater as the Queen's body-guard during her stay at Balmoral, and the allegation against Harris was that he stole £23 from a tradesman in the village inn.

Arrangements have been commenced amongst the leading rifle shooting organisations of the United States for a strong team of American marksmen to visit England next July, in order to fire a match against the best English riflemen at the site of the next prize meeting of the National Rifle Association. It is now several years since the first American team appeared at Wimbledon and suffered a defeat by the British riflemen.

The Crofters' Commission have now issued all their decisions on the Duke of Sutherland's property in Assynt, on the west coast of Sutherlandshire, where the military expedition was sent last winter. To 330 crofters they have given an average reduction of 6 per cent. on their rent, and have cancelled about 33 per cent. of their arrears. These are the smallest reductions made by the commission on any estate in the Highlands.

A plant of a boat has been washed ashore a few miles from Bridport, upon which, apparently cut with a knife, were the words, "Ada, sprung a leak. Tried to get to Portland. Sent this to Harwich. Layzers, mate. Heavy sea. Foundered off Portland. Took to boat, expect all four to perish." Since this discovery 200 barrels of paraffin, presumably part of the Ada's cargo, have been washed ashore at the same spot. There are

Ada, but the wrecked vessel is most likely the ketch barge Ada, 120 tons, belonging to Harwich.

Kelly, M.P., was released from Sligo Prison on Monday.

Pending the arrival of the new Spanish ambassador, the First Secretary of the Embassy, Don José de la Roca, will act as chargé d'affaires.

M. Zachariah Stoyanoff, the Ministerial candidate, has been elected President of the Bulgarian Sobranje by a large majority.

The Queen's Christmas alms have been distributed at the Royal alms-house, in Craig's-court, to over one thousand poor persons from the various parishes in and around London.

From Vienna, where snow at Christmas is the rule, spring-like weather was reported to prevail. Hundreds of excursionists left the capital on Monday morning for the mountain resorts.

M. Joseph Martin, a celebrated French traveller, is about to start on a scientific expedition to Central China and the unexplored regions of Eastern Tibet.

It is officially stated that the Queen has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Earl of Kintore as governor of South Australia, on the retirement of Sir William Robinson.

Large congregations filled the principal churches in London on Christmas Day, when special prominence was given to the musical portion of the service, and sermons were preached on the theme of the day.

Under the threat that Port-au-Prince would be bombarded by American war vessels, the vessel Haytian Republic has been released and the American flag saluted, but after a protest by the Haytian authorities.

A sad accident happened on Christmas Day at a football match at Bradford. Several boys had climbed a railing, which gave way, and a number of spectators fell forward upon them. One lad was killed, and two were taken to an infirmary, one of whom had broken his leg.

The Pope delivered a long allocution on Christmas Day to the members of the Sacred College, who offered their good wishes for the New Year. The whole world, he said, saw how painful his situation was, for even his own person was exposed to the threats of the mob.

In entering Penarth Docks the steamer Alaska, 1,300 tons register, got jammed with the tugboat Thomas Joliffe, of Liverpool. Five tugs afterwards came up and endeavoured to drag the Thomas Joliffe out of the entrance, but without result.

A binocular glass has been awarded by the Board of Trade to Captain Francis Monteny, of the Ostend fishing boat No. 91, in acknowledgment of his humanity and kindness to the shipwrecked crew of the schooner Fitzmaurice, of Glasgow, whom he rescued on November 16th.

Christmas Day was celebrated in the institutions under the charge of the metropolitan poor-law guardians by special feasts to the inmates. In most instances the wards and dining halls had been decorated, and during the evening entertainments were given.

The United Foxhounds, the farmers' pack of Cardiganshire, has made a run of twenty-five miles, the longest recorded in Wales. The scent was burning, and for three hours and twenty-five minutes the gallant mountain fox showed the Welshmen a clean pair of heels, and eventually saved his brush by taking refuge in an earth at Pwllgell.

"I am 62 years old. In eight years I would have been 70, an old, dilapidated, tottering fossil. I have played the world out, and it don't owe me a cent. I've had more fun than a mule in a cornfield, and I've got enough. Therefore, I will cheat the course of nature and jump the time to come." This is actually the letter which a St. Louis man wrote before taking his life.

At Bournemouth Police Court on Thursday, two labouring men named Haskell and Coke were sentenced to two months' imprisonment for having in their possession five casks of petroleum, which had washed ashore on the beach at Boscombe from a wreck. Another man was fined £5 or one month's imprisonment for secreting a barrel from the same wreck.

A much travelled goat is aboard the United States sloop-of-war Galena. It is a pet of the sailors, and as such has journeyed up and down the Atlantic coast and among the West Indies. It eats with the men and goes around among the mess-boards and the mess-tables as independently as would any officer. It understands the boat-swain's pipe as well as the sailors.

In garrisons and barracks there were Christmas celebrations, officers and men entering heartily into the festive observance of the season. In the poorer quarters of the metropolis abundant meals were provided for the destitute, philanthropic ladies and gentlemen freely rendering their services, while in many of the hospitals musical and other entertainments cheered the patients.

Eighteen years ago, when the air brake was tried, it required eighteen seconds to apply it to a train 2,000 ft. long. Four years later the time was reduced four seconds. Recent experiments show that it can be applied to every car on a train of that length running at the rate of forty miles an hour, and that this train can be stopped within 500 ft., or one-fourth of its own length, without any serious jolting.

A meteor of great size and remarkable duration was observed at Brighton just before midnight on Christmas Eve. The unusually long time it lasted, its large size, the peculiar steadiness and directness of its motion, and its fiery brilliancy, which made it conspicuous even against the brightness of the moon, to which it was apparently in close proximity, created a great not to say uneasy, sensation among those who saw it.

It is estimated that from 20th to 25th of December inclusive four and a-half millions of letters were handled in the Manchester Post Office, being almost double the number at ordinary times and a million in excess of the corresponding period of last year. On Christmas Eve alone the number approached two millions, being more than four times as many as on an ordinary Monday.

A floating fort for coast defence is said to have been invented by the Japanese admiral Akamatsu. This fort is to be built on a kind of vessel made of steel, 150 ft. in length, with a double screw and engines of 200-horse power, capable of attaining a speed of three miles an hour. On the first bridge will be placed twelve 15-centimetre cannon, and on the second eight 26-centimetre. The crew will number 250 men.

Donald Mackenzie, farm servant, who has now been identified as the man who was last seen in company with the young woman Lammond, who was cruelly murdered at Fort George, Inverness, on December 14th, was brought before Sheriff Blair at Inverness this week. It has transpired that the prisoner was away from home on the night of the murder, and it was alleged that on his return his coat and shirt were covered with blood. He was committed for trial.

The commander of the troops quartered in the West of Turkey received orders to seize a large quantity of arms and ammunition in the Monastery of Decana, which contains the tomb of the ancient King Stefan Decanay and other historical personages, held in reverence by the Serbian people. The Turkish soldiers desecrated these tombs, opened the coffins, and took away many relics—an outrage which has called forth great indignation in Serbia.

It is officially reported that the total number of wolves killed in France during the past year was 791, and of these two were wolves which had attacked human beings, and for each of which a premium of 48 was paid; 14 were she-wolves with young, for each of which a premium of 46 was paid; 315 were ordinary wolves, for which a premium of 44 was paid; and 370 cubs, for each of which a premium of 32s. was paid. The total

22,284 for 750 wolves in 1886, and 22,620 for 900 in 1885.

The death is announced from Martigny, in Switzerland, of M. Bex, the agent de change who recently absconded from Paris.

The armour-plated battle ship Bellerophon, Captain Bourier F. Clark, is to be recommissioned for another term of service as flag-ship on the North American and West Indies Station.

The Queen of Madagascar has accepted the Grand Riband of the Legion of Honour as a pledge of the good relations existing between her country and France.

According to a Vienna correspondent the Bulgarian Government is negotiating with Messrs. Krupp for 80 new batteries. A contract for 1,000,000 francs' worth of shells has already been signed.

In the course of an interview at Winnipeg an ex-secretary of the Spanish Legation in Japan stated that when he left Yokohama a report was current that a secret treaty had been concluded between Russia and Japan against England.

A fire which broke out at the Sun Flour Mills, Waltham Abbey, on Monday night, continued till early on Tuesday morning, when both the old and the new buildings were completely gutted. The damage is estimated at about £50,000.

The revenue receipts from the 1st of April to the 22nd of December were £57,275,989, against £57,936,481 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, while the expenditure was £58,554,822 against £58,356,649.

It is said at Portsmouth that the naval manoeuvres to be carried out next summer will be on a far more extensive scale than have ever yet been attempted, and that the fleets engaged will be much stronger than last year.

While Elijah Davis, aged 23, of Smethwick, was running on the Stourbridge Extension Railway, near Langley Station, to catch the last train on Christmas Eve, he was overtaken by it and killed on the spot.

While a boy named George Parsons Pritchard, 14 years of age, the son of a clerk in the Post Office, was playing with a revolver at Bristol on Christmas Day, the weapon exploded, and the lad fell dead at the feet of a companion.

The steamship Dorunda has left Gravesend for Queensland with the following emigrants on board:—138 single men, 57 single women, and 33 married couples and children, making a total of 243 souls.

A petition from the inhabitants of Chatham, praying for the incorporation of that town, has been submitted to the Privy Council, who have announced that they will consider it before the close of the year.

The Portuguese consul for Cape Town has issued a notice, on behalf of his Government, declaring null and void any concessions of land or minerals in the Mafeking and adjacent territories by Lobengula, King of the Matabele.

It is stated that in Russian diplomatic circles the question which arose out of the late acts of the Persian Government is now regarded as entirely disposed of, and that it remains for Russian merchants and capitalists to use the means best fitted to meet British competition in Persia.

General Harrison has many excellent qualities. Perhaps the most important of these is his ability to hold his tongue. The combined interviewing force of the whole American press has not been able to extort from him a word in regard to his prospective policy.

It is said that Lord Carrington, the present governor of New South Wales, spends £15,000 a year, in addition to his income, at Sydney. It is thus he enjoys immunity from the imputation of parsimony so readily cast upon our colonial governors.

Sir A. Rollett, M.P., is an enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Blundell Maple's bill, which would reconstitute the London School Board on the basis of one member for each electoral Parliamentary division of the metropolis, and two for the City.

Much consternation has been caused at Macclesfield and Congleton, in Cheshire, where some thousands of hands are engaged in the silk trade, by the steady rise in the price of all classes of raw silk. During last week there has been a rise of 20 and 25 per cent.

Two Russian guns, weighing 50 tons each, have been sent to Sebastopol for the purpose of being placed in the new ironclad Sinope. They throw projectiles of nearly half a ton, and their range is thirteen miles. The powder charge is 270 lbs., and the initial velocity 3,000 metres.

The calined body of a man was found in one of the limekilns off Aqueduct-street, on the outskirts of Preston, about two o'clock on Christmas morning. It is supposed that he was sleeping near the mouth of the kiln for warmth, and that he rolled in.

So much is he—or is it his wealth?—appreciated that Colonel North, the "Nitrate King," has been pressed to take the chair at the next annual meeting of the Royal General Theatrical Fund—a request to which he has returned a regretful negative, accompanied, as the story runs, with a cheque for £500.

Field-marshal Count Moltke received such an enthusiastic welcome from the Berlin mob while he was out making some Christmas purchases, that he had to beat a retreat by the help of a cab, the first time in his life, probably, that he used it necessary to make a strategic movement to the rear.

A fatal accident has occurred on the New York Central Railway, near Rochester, owing to a fast train running off the line. Twenty-five persons were injured; two fatally, a collision on the Louisville and Nashville Railway, at Bardonia, Kentucky, two persons were killed and thirteen injured.

Judgment was given in the Board of Trade inquiry at Hull on Monday relative to the accident to the steamer Akaba, in the North Sea, on the 7th November, and loss of several lives. The court held the master in default, but, having regard to his praiseworthy conduct after the accident, only suspended his certificate for three months.

According to the Vienna Tagblatt, an inquiry has been instituted into the circumstances of the attempted explosion in the theatre in Malta, when the Duchess of Edinburgh was present at a performance. The result was that a Russian official of high rank was arrested on suspicion; and the British authorities believe that they are on the track of a nihilist conspiracy.

Even if the Panama Canal were completed, it is contended by the *Weser Zeitung* that the great commerce of Europe must still pass through the Suez Canal for India, China, and Australia. The only importance of the Panama Canal, so far as Europe is concerned, is the traffic to the western coast of the American continent, and the products there are limited by the chains of mountains running comparatively close to the coast.

It has been a mystery to many people how it is that the London hawkers have a perennial supply of plants at such cheap prices. It appears that evergreen shrubs are manufactured for the barrow trade in an ingenious manner. Some large plants are stolen and cut up, and the stems of the divided portions are thrust into cabbage stumps with roots attached. Two ingenious manufacturers were prosecuted at Wandsworth a few days ago for selling evergreen shrubs "grafted" on cabbage roots.

During the progress of a fire at Holyhead on Monday night a party of Marines from her Majesty's ship Neptune went up, and, at great risk to their lives, rushed into the place and tore away the sea mains, thus extinguishing the flames which were blazing furiously from the melted pipes. One of the men promptly flung his coat over a burner which was close to a quantity of combustibles. The result of their courageous

without the aid of a fire-engine—which, by the way, it appears the town does not possess.

In Adelaide the church attenders are said to number one in four of the population.

The funeral of Mr. Laurence Oliphant took place on Thursday at Twickenham New Cemetery.

The whole of the chainmakers in the Cradley Heath district do not number more than 3,000.

During the past five years 6,286,445 acres of New South Wales Crown lands have been bartered away.

King Humbert, of Italy, is a teetotaler and a non-smoker.

The future Duchess of Newcastle—Miss Candy—has strong High Church views, and is anxious to use any influence she possesses in that direction.

A Central Pacific train has been robbed in the Sierras of several thousands of pounds by a gang of thieves.

The death is announced from Naples of Signor Mancini, the well known advocate and member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

Six persons went out for a sail in San Francisco Bay. There was a sudden gust of wind. Six families in the city are bereaved.

An exploding lamp set fire to the steamer Erichsen, near Seattle, Puget Sound. Seven lives were lost, while twenty-six persons escaped, some of these, however, being injured.

The town residence of the Earl of Strathmore in St. James's-square has been purchased. It is to be converted into a lodging-house for single gentlemen.

Alice Dawson fell into the Foss at York. A man named Dunlop jumped in to her rescue. Both were drowned. Poor Dunlop had only been married three weeks.

There have been 248 deaths of members of the Society of Friends in the United Kingdom during the year. This is a number considerably less than for some years.

Old boots and shoes, steamed to a pulp, are now in New York converted into the soft, stamped, ornamental leather so popular for artistic book-binding.

Robert W. Page, employed in an Atlanta, Ga., slaughter-house, met a horrible death. He fell into a large kettle used for scalding hogs, and was boiled almost to a jelly, his body having remained in the water nearly an hour.

There should be no lack of doctors in the United States, if the number be at all proportionate to the population. There are only 100 doctors to 100,000 of the population in England. There are only five-and-twenty.

An old book soon to be published in New York is to contain a catalogue of the very wealthy men of the States. About forty years ago a similar book was printed, and the standard of wealth was then fixed at \$100,000. Now it is \$1,000,000.

They have been experimenting with a new powder at Yonne. It increases the velocity of the bullet one-fifth; it is smokeless, and can be steeped in water for twenty-four hours without incurring the slightest damage.

Lawrence Richard, a man living at Kansas city, was asked why he shot at his wife, who was then at death's door. "Because she is in good health," said the envious wretch—who was himself in hopeless consumption.

"Are you guilty?" was the song Mr. Alfred Vance, the well-known comic vocalist, was singing at the Sun Music Hall, at Knightsbridge. Suddenly he staggered off the stage. In a few minutes he was dead—before he had been driven to St. George's Hospital.

This is why Secretary of State Polozoff has been summarily dismissed by the Czar. Instead of being present at the opening of the Imperial Council in his official capacity, he accepted the invitation of a grand duchess to prolong his stay in Paris.

Konrad Burkhardt, the proprietor of a New York saloon, concluded that life was not worth living. He plunged headlong off the roof of the house, and came down head first on an iron post, splitting his head in two from crown to neck.

Marblehead is a thriving town in Massachusetts. It has had nine acres devastated, thirteen dwellings, twelve shoe factories, and twelve business houses destroyed, and suffered damage to the extent of 500,000 dollars. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

A native was packing jute in a patent press at Calcutta, and was shut in by his fellow-workers, who were ignorant that he was inside the box. The closing of the doors set the machinery in motion automatically, and the man was crushed to a jelly. When his comrades went to remove the jute they had a ghastly surprise.

They were declared to have fought seventy-six rounds ere the Gaiety-head police appeared. Their names were Joseph Forrest and Andrew McGivney. On the ground were the articles of agreement, and according to these the stake was £10 a side. The considerable majority of the borough only fined them 10s. and costs each.

Mrs. Jay Gould is said to have a private fortune of £2,000,000. 1,920,000 of this represents the accretions which have attached themselves to her dowry of 80,000 dollars. Her husband took her money when they married, and invested and re-invested, and speculated with it until Mrs. Jay can write a cheque for seven figures—and have it honoured, too.

At Bourne on Thursday, Thomas Bennett, cottager, was charged with the murder of his wife, Phoebe Bennett, on the 22nd inst. The prisoner, in his statement, admitted striking the deceased, but denied the killing. The medical evidence showed that death resulted from heart disease, due to excitement. The prisoner was committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

A coal hauler named Thomas Edwards was drowned on Thursday in the Rhonda River. The body of a man unknown was seen floating down the stream, and Edwards and another man attempted to ford the stream in a cart and recover the body. The horse became restive, the cart was overturned, and Edwards was drowned. The man who was with him was rescued.

Mr. C. T. Port, a senior partner in the firm of Walton, Hassell, and Port, was found insensible at his residence at Hampstead, his breath smelling strongly of carbolic acid. He died a few minutes later. An inquest was held on Wednesday, when the jury returned a verdict to the effect that Mr. Port took the acid himself, and so committed suicide while under the influence of mental depression.

"Every thief shall have his left hand cut off," decrees the Sultan of Zanzibar. That is truly brutal, but less so than the old English punishment in Edward the First's time. Then the thief who stole from the lead mines in Derby had his left hand firmly nailed to a table, and everything was removed beyond the reach of his right hand except a sharp knife. To save himself from the tortures of ultimate starvation the only means left the wretch was to cut off his left hand.

A curious case of the drowning of a poacher has been investigated by Dr. Grace, coroner for West Gloucestershire, who held an inquest at Bitton on the body of Albert Hobbs, 15 years of age. Six weeks ago deceased was detected with two other lads poaching at Studley, and ran away from the gamekeeper, dropping a rabbit in his flight. He ran towards the Avon, and attempted to cross the river by means of a weir. The water was running with great force over the dam, and he was swept away. The body was recovered on Saturday at Bitton, many miles from Studley. An open verdict was returned.

The annual entertainment and dance of the members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade at the central station took place on Wednesday night at Winchester House, Southwark Bridge-road, when a large number of firemen and their wives and friends enjoyed the somewhat rare opportunity of a social evening. The large recreation hall was brilliantly decorated. Dancing, interspersed with

a pleasant programme, which continued until a early hour in the morning.

A Barnley butcher has been fined £5 and costs for having in his possession beef which was unfit for human food.

William Boyers, the Army pensioner, who was as alleged, beaten by a man named Price, with whom he quarrelled about politics, has died in the county infirmary at Armagh.

A society of Catholics is organising in Rome, in all Italy a vast association which is to operate with similar associations all over the world in supplying the funds necessary to organise a regular campaign against the traffic in negroes.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynne has given an allowance of 10 per cent. to his Montserrat tenants, and Mr. Bromley Davenport, M.P., also given 10 per cent. to his Calverley tenants in Cheshire.

Several hundreds of workmen were absent from Portsmouth Dockyard on Wednesday. A holiday was given on Monday instead of the day after Christmas Day, and the change was not at all popular with the men.

A petition with 1,500 signatures has been forwarded to the Home Secretary in favour of the reprieve of the Turnbridge Wells murderer, Dobell and Gower, both under 18 years, whose execution is fixed for the 2nd of January.

The Queen of Madagascar was presented by the French resident on November 20th with the Grand Riband of the Legion of Honour, in acknowledgment of the honour the Queen said it was a pledge of the good relations existing between her country and France.

The Archduchess Marie Valerie, the second daughter of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, was betrothed on Christmas Eve to the son of the Arch-duke Charles of Tuscany. The archduchess is 20 years of age, and the bridegroom-elect 22.

A large party of sergeants of metropolitan corporations took part in an important innovation in Volunteer work in an auction with outpost duty on Wimbledon Common on Wednesday. The Military Corps of the metropolis were also out in the same district.

A Berlin telegram states the French Government is endeavouring to ascertain whether Germany and Italy will permit the Catholic missionaries in China, or German or Italian nationality, to receive French passports or visas if they ask them. Germany has refused, and it is said that Italy intends to follow the example of Germany.

The annual meeting in connection with the Glasgow Savings Bank was held on Thursday. The amount deposited is £1,880,000, the deposits number 143,261, while £1,409,000 is invested in interest in Government securities. The deposits have quadrupled in twenty years, and nearly doubled in twelve years.

A fire broke out in a lodging-house in Linton, street, West Dorset road, Liverpool, on Wednesday morning, by which an old woman 82 years of age was burnt to death. The fire originated in a bed-room, and was presumably caused by one of the inmates falling from a chair whilst seized with a fit, or a lamp, and overturning a lighted candle.

A packer, named John Oliver, who had been run over by a train, was found on the metals near Holworthy with the heel completely severed from his body and the legs cut below the knee. He was to have been married for the second time on New Year's Day, and had nine children. The deceased had told a fellow-workman that he had dreamed of being run over by a train.

Through the personal kindness of the directors of the Empire



## A TRAGIC TALE OF PASSION

## AND REVENGE.

A murder of such romantic interest and such terrible consequences took place in Florence on the 18th instant that some account of it, says a correspondent, can scarcely be deemed without interest to our readers. The victim was a Christian lady of great beauty, large eyes, and of honourable name—the Countess Costa of Verona; and the scene of the murder was the cemetery chapel where her husband was buried four years ago. The countess, a woman still attractive and lovely, with a tall and graceful figure, delicate features, brown eyes, and chestnut hair, was left a widow with four children and a considerable fortune, admired and respected by all, and singularly happy in the circumstances of her life. Her husband, with her name, was her favourite, his dog was a familiar feature in the drives of the Casaccio, and he was a friend of the Countess's. An Italian officer, Gaetano Boscherini, who was among the *amis de la maison*, at the Casa Costa and who is believed to have been passionately in love with her before his departure for Massowah, on his return from Africa resumed his familiar intercourse with the family, and was consulted and employed by them in various matters of business. Latterly, however, he became dissatisfied with his position of trust and friendship with the countess, and repeated proposals of marriage were made, which she refused. In this manner as leave friendship still possible between them. It is always said to be a perilous task to change a lover into a friend, but she evidently believed that it was possible to retain a friend without allowing him to become a lover. For although she persistently repulsed the idea of a second marriage, she continued to receive Boscherini as before, and on the 18th of December when he offered to accompany her to the Chapel of San Miniato on the visit of her husband's tomb, she allowed him to do so, telling her maid, that she would meet them later on at Giuoco's bonbon shop. While the poor children waited happily chattering of coming Natale presents and festivities, their mother was assassinated by Boscherini in the mortuary chapel at San Miniato. The brute stabbed her with a knife, one thrust dividing the heart itself, another passing from the jugular vein on the left to the carotid artery on the right. He then seized himself with a revolver, blowing to pieces his face and hand. That frightful murder was perpetrated in the course of the day, the woman employed. Whether the cause was the mere brutality of disappointed passion, or whether the desire to obtain possession of her wealth had been added to admiration of her person, or whether ancient jealousy of the husband whose memory she cherished, or present jealousy of some more favoured suitor drove the fiend who killed her to his horrible vengeance will in a probability never be known. Seldom has a more atrocious crime been imagined. The scene of the murder, the *chapel della Vergine*, where the Angels are *la bella rivellata*, and where the legends of the saints place the martyrdom of St. Minias whom the panther spared, the glorious sylvan beauty around where the last golden foliage of autumn still lingers among the deep green of ivy and arbutus and cypress, the brilliant sunshine which fell that day on the white marble of the glittering crosses, the many-coloured mosaic of the old brown watch-tower of Michael Angel brooding over all, with the white doves circling round it, down below, the laughing and talking children, ignorant of their loss, laughing and talking, full of the merriment of the season, wondering heedlessly why their mother tarried so long—all these circumstances and accessories enhance an exceptionally tragic tale of passion and revenge.

**various Own.**—There is considerable  
scarcity.

**AN ANXIOUS ONE.**—There is considerable risk attached to the security.

**SHASPER.**—They are fully paid up. Five shares would be worth about \$250. The price fluctuates almost every day. It would be against our rule to express any opinion whatever as to the trustworthiness of a particular broker.

**HENRY EDWARDS.**—(to some respectable money-changers) There are plenty in the City and West-End. I never reply by post.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

*Though every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot accept any responsibility for accidental errors. Questions requiring to be answered the usual week will be inserted. Questions of a technical or literary nature subsequently received will be answered the following week. When the return of any MS. is desired it must be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope of suitable size to be destroyed. Whenever payment is required, it must be by cheque. Contributions they must be so marked, the amount being either specified or left to the editor to fix.*

**HARM VICE.**—No.  
C. M.—No.

**SCOTT.**—You must comply with the affiliation order of the law. You have secured proof of the child's death. More important than that. Make such inquiry into the matter as will give you the truth one way or the other.

**UNION JACK.**—"The Devil's Dice" came out in book form some time ago, and can be obtained of any bookseller. "The Devil's Dice" is a very good book.

**M. E. A.**—We know nothing about the concerns. You must exercise your own judgment after making due inquiry.

**A LEASERBORDER.**—You remain answerable for the redemption of the whole term of the lease; if you do not pay it, the landlord can recover by legal process. He cannot disclaim the lodgers' goods. A contract, whether for the hire of a house or other purpose, cannot be unannulled by one party without the consent of the other. If that were allowed, it would be the law of contracts?

**STERN.**—The tenant must pay the rates and taxes who application is made, that being his covenant with the landlord. If he fails to do so his goods will be liable to attachment in execution of a judgment against him. He is not bound to give in the paragraph. If you are thinking of emigration to the Argentine Republic, your best course will be to write to the Argentine Embassy, 16, Kensington Palace Gardens, and inquire of them how to reply by post.

**A. C.**—We strongly advise you to abstain from purchasing any goods until "your" discharge is obtained. They would be liable to seizure at any time. The best thing you could do would be to get your goods sold and your name withdrawn.

**G. FRACONIA.**—Never. It is a stupid Radical fabrication. Challenge any one who says so to give proof of the statement.

officers adrift at any time. The quest

**LAWRENCE.**—The stuff must have been badly manufactured. If of mackintosh, you might try rubbing in oil over the outside with a piece of flannel, leaving the oil on for a few days. If it is made of silk, with a piece of very soft linen silk. If not of mackintosh, we have heard the common yellow soap, well rubbed in on the inside of the stuff, and finally worked off the surface with a wood rasp, and then rubbed with oil. It is difficult to say if manufactured goods are rarely rendered with any very satisfactory results. You do not say what kind of "waterproof" yours is, and there are so many varieties made that it is impossible to say whether either of the above will meet the case.

**BADSO.**—We cannot at present direct you how to proceed.

**BADFACE.**—You might try Jean Wemy's favourite remedy, and see what use that you have said to use.

**E. H.**—The stain you name is always difficult to remove. We know of nothing better than repeated washings with warm water. For coloured prints do not use any washing powder; wash quickly in warm, but not hot, water; wash hard, then wash again; after which rinse in cold water and hang out to dry.

**WATER.**—For coloured prints were given in our issues August 26th and September 2nd.

**J. H. PARSONS.**—White.

**GARDEN.**—The vermin appear to be ticks. Wash the dirt with Naidire's soap until the parasites are exterminated. You had better use tepid water, and give the dog a run until it is quite dry.

**WILLIAM.**—It depends upon the terms of the will. If it was a bequest of the sum you name, to be paid to you at your coming of age, you are not entitled to interest.

**A. R. HATT.**—The claim against you appears to be quite legal.

**JOHN READER.**—You can proceed against your wife for making away with the things. Her relations would probably assert that they acted with her authority, leaving the goods to be her own.

**READER OF "THE PEOPLE."**—The deceased's estate—the, in any property he left—is solely liable for the debt. The creditors cannot come down either upon you or the son, unless you have received any of the goods.

**WALTER JOHN H.**—It depends upon the company's Act and Parliament.

**F. H.**—Probably you are assessed for house duty on the fact of the death.

**M. BURDEN.**—No record available.

**H. C.**—He acted most unwarrantably by breaking into your house during your tenancy, and if you refuse to accept of him, you may sue him for trespass, and also a claim against him for interference with your possession of the premises.

**Mr. Wynne B. Baxter** was assessed last week for the death of Frederick Farrow, aged 39, a porter in the employ of the London and North-Western Railway. He was working on the line at the Poplar goods station shunting carriages, when he became jammed between the buffers, and was terribly crushed internally, only limping to the hospital a few hours.

Emperor. She is the niece of the Empress herself and her Manchu name is Ye-hoh-na-la. T

astrologers have fixed on the 23rd of February a propitious day, and the marriage will, according to present arrangements, be celebrated on that date.

ARE YOU ILL?  
READ WHAT GORDON'S EXTRACT CURE

**DO TO RELIEVE AND CURE YOU.**

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
people almost stricken and *drink for pain,*

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
when all other remedies have failed.

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
when doctors have given up the patient.

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
those turned from hospitals to *incurable.*

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
those who have given up *hope in despair.*

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT CURES  
for Two Shillings where pounds have been spent in vain.

**G**ORDON'S EXTRACT  
IS A CERTAIN CURE  
FOR LIVER COMPLAINTS, SICK HEADACHE,  
COATED TONGUE, ACHING LIMBS,  
DISORDERED STOMACH, INDIGESTION,  
FLATULENCE, LOSS OF APPETITE,  
LOATHING OF FOOD, ACIDITY, FAINTNESS,  
SWIMMING IN THE HEAD,  
CONSTIPATION, OFFENSIVE BREATH,  
ASTHMATIC BREATHING, DROPSY.

**M**ANY THOUSANDS  
of Testimonials have been received from Clergymen,  
clergy, attributing to the wonderful cures effected  
GORDON'S EXTRACT.

The following is eloquence itself :—

**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.  
**P**ROOF  
POSITIVE.

"Sir.—I had my wife ill for more than two years. She has been treated by two doctors at a great expense, and at St. Thomas's Hospital, and the Hospital for Women in Dublin, also by dispensary doctors, and private doctors, and has received all kinds of Patent Medicines, and after nothing did her any good, and I began to think her case was incurable. She was removed from London to France, Lost of Age, Loss of Energy—in fact, she wasted away to a mere skeleton. For more than five months she lay in bed, and could not sleep. SLEEP. She was obliged to take sleeping draughts, which eventually affected her heart, and she had to be moved to a lunatic asylum. When she had been there three months I claimed my discharge, on account of her being under proper control at home, which she did; but she was so weak and helpless, then that I did not expect her to make many walks, and now she can walk. It was of the same opinion; even the doctor told me they could not do anything more, since they had done it."

"Well, at last some one advised me to try GORDON'S EXTRACT, and I thank God, that I did. I took it for six weeks, and she had taken about half of it she said, "believe that it is doing good," I am glad to tell you that she is now strong and appetites seems a little better." She took three bottles of it, and she was as well as ever AND SO ON AS EVER SHE WAS.

"You are at liberty to make who you see like of this letter. I have recommended the Extract to every one whom I have seen ill, and as long as I live I will always do so."

I remain, Sir, yours truly, JAMES W. DUFFIN,  
Gordon's Extract,

## WHAT IS GORDON'S EXTRACT?

**GORDON'S EXTRACT** is a concentrated syrup, containing the active principles of eleven plants, the roots of North and South American origin, most of which are unobtainable in this country. It contains no poison, no quinine, no opium, no mercury or other mineral, or any deleterious substance. Nor does it contain any alcohol.

Its curative properties are delicately balanced and harmoniously blended, and have a most powerful effect upon the disordered state of the body, especially when the springs originally from the stomach or liver.

**GORDON'S EXTRACT** can be obtained of all Chemists, bottles at \$2, but if any difficulty, it will be forwarded free on receipt of twenty-seven stamps by the Wholesale Agents:

**MAY ROBERTS, AND CO., 5, CECILIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.**



**IMPERIAL DEPOSIT BANK** as security from \$20 to \$25,000, without any credit, and at 5 per cent interest. Apply for prospectus, which will give all particulars to C. J. KNIGHT & CO., 115, Adam-street, Strand.

**MONEY LENT PRIVATELY.**

**£25** TO £1,000, to respectable persons requiring temporary assistance, on promissory note, or receipt, or bill of exchange, or other security, on removal, life policies, &c. Advances are effected in day. Dividend 5 per cent. Apply personally, or write to actual lender, **C. G. LODGE**, 134, St. John-street, Strand, E.C. (Private gentleman.)

**MONEY LENT (PRIVATELY) AT A FEW HOURS.**

**NOTICE ON NOTE OF PAID ALONE.**

In sums of £10 to £1,000, on promissory note, or bill of exchange, or other security, at distances no object, as repayments of cash, or by bill of exchange, or by cheque. Advances also made on removal, life policies, &c. Advances are effected in day, to return, trade and farm stock, &c., on goods, reversions, life policies, &c., from one to ten years. No securities required. Call personally, or write to **NICHOLLS** (late Mr. A. S. DAVEN), SAYVOY HOUSE, 115 and 116, Strand, LONDON, W.C. (Private entrance in Sayvoys' building.)

N.B.—Sums lent on bill of exchange, or promissory note, or bill of exchange, or other security, and at strict confidence.



"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

**CLARKE'S**  
WORLD-FAMED  
**BLOOD MIXTURE,**  
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER  
AND RESTORER.

**FOR CLEANSING and CLEARING the BLOOD from ALL IMPURITIES,** it cannot be too highly recommended. For Scrofula, Scoury, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases, and sores of all kinds it is a never-failing and permanent Cure. It Cures Old Sores. Cures Sores on the Neck. Cures Sore Legs.

Cures Pimples on the Face.  
Cures Scurvy.  
Cures Eczema.  
Cures Ulcers.  
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.  
Cures Glandular Swellings.  
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter.  
From whatever cause arising.  
It is the only real specific for  
Gout and Rheumatic Pains.

As this mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, the Proprietors solicit sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

**CLARKE'S**  
**WORLD-FAMED**  
**BLOOD MIXTURE.**

"I feel that blood is a life-giver, and that it is the most important of all the fluids of the body. It is the life-giver to the brain, the life-giver to the heart, the life-giver to the lungs, the life-giver to the liver, the life-giver to the stomach, the life-giver to the intestines, the life-giver to the kidneys, the life-giver to the bladder, the life-giver to the uterus, the life-giver to the ovaries, the life-giver to the testicles, the life-giver to the prostate, the life-giver to the rectum, the life-giver to the anus, the life-giver to the skin, the life-giver to the hair, the life-giver to the nails, the life-giver to the bones, the life-giver to the muscles, the life-giver to the nerves, the life-giver to the senses, the life-giver to the mind, the life-giver to the soul, the life-giver to the spirit, the life-giver to the body, the life-giver to the whole man." — Dr. J. C. Clarke.

inform you of the wonderful effects of Clarke's Blood Purifier on me. I have had suffering over two years of the most miserable nature. I first consulted the best medical aid I could possibly procure for over six months, till my means were run out, and with a sad heart I was compelled to come into the workhouse hospital, where I now am. I had been there eighteen months, and my legs gradually got worse. I began to think they would never get better till about five months ago I read in a copy of the 'Hall's East Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire Times' of 'Clarke's

Blood Mixture," and I determined that when I could raise the means I would try it; so I commenced to deprive myself of little necessities till at length I had eleven shillings. I got my sister to purchase a large bottle. She brought me one in on May 14th, and to my surprise she brought me a 2d. one, which enabled me to purchase two small pots of your miracle salve. I commenced to use Blood Mixture on May 6th. I then had five wounds on the left leg, of very large on the ankle bone, one on the shin, about the size of half-a-crown, and three on the calf, another

large. The right leg was somewhat similar, but there were three sores which I thought would break into sores but all are perfectly healed up now but one small place on the left ankle about the size of a shilling. There are fifteen patients in the ward that I am in, and they were surprised to see my legs when I had taken the mixture a week, and there are three of them now using it. I am very sorry indeed that I cannot purchase another bottle. You may judge for yourself how I am fixed, being in bed sixteen months. My sister, Mrs. Bolger, is in the ward next to me.

"No, a Ward,  
"Anley-road Workhouse Hospital, Hull,  
June 13th, 1888."  
LATER.  
"I write to let you know how I am getting on. I receive

Mixture you sent me, and the wounds are  
 now completely healed up. I will be out of here in a few  
 days and get to work, which is already promised me.  
 I am going to reside at my sister's Mrs. Bolmer. If you  
 wish to use this case for the benefit of other poor  
 sufferers, do so. The result of your Mixture is real-  
 ly wonderful.—I remain, your thankful servant.  
 "June 26th, 1868." "EDWARD STATHES.

CLARKE'S

**BLOOD MIXTURE.**

"Chester, March 5th, 1898.  
"I suffered from rheumatic pains in my arms and legs for over five years. I also had a bruised shins bone, through which I could rest only for a few minutes at a time. All sorts of remedies were applied, but none did any good for more than a few days. I was recommended to try Clarke's Blood Mixture, which I did, and after taking it for about two weeks, I was able to walk without pain."

"It is now ten months since, and I have now felt no  
 least pain—in fact, I am perfect in my walk, and am  
 as good health as ever I was in my life.

"Moreover, I told two friends of mine, who were in  
 up with rheumatic pains, of my cure, and they tried my  
 Clarke's Blood Mixture. They are tailors by trade, and  
 in seven days they were at work again, and they say  
 cannot be too highly praised. — Hoping I am

intruding, I remain, yours sincerely,  
"G. HOWARTH, SERGEANT, DEPOT, CHEESHIRE  
REGIMENT, CHESTER."

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**CLARKE'S**  
WORLD-FAMED  
**BLOOD MIXTURE.**

"I write to thank you for the great benefit I receive

through taking Clarke's Blood Mixture. I was troubled for about ten years with some terrible sores that could scarcely move about by day or rest by night, as I was continually taking medicine and using ointments and lotion, but all to no purpose. I was in the infirmary about a year, and I was advised to have my arm off, but I would not consent. I soon found it a little better when I left that place, but broke out a moderately afterwards. It was then that I gave Clarke's Blood Mixture the trial. After I had taken one bottle (Clarke) I was astonished at the change, for all the sores

“It is two years since I took those three bottles, and there is not the least sign of the sores breaking out again. The reason I did not write before to thank you was that I wished to see if the cure was lasting or no and I am satisfied that it is.

“H. VINDELL  
“13, Moat-place, Stockwell Green, S.W., Oct. 1919

1867.

**THOUSANDS  
OF  
TESTIMONIALS.**

SKIN DISEASES, Eruptions, Blotches, Spots, Pimples, Pustules, Boils, Carbuncles, Ringworms, Sore Eyes, Erysipelas, Scours, Discoloration of the Skin, Humours, and Diseases of the Skin, of whatever name or nature, are literally carried off

**IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL.**—Cleanse the vitiated blood whenever you find its impurities bursting through the skin in Pimples, Eruptions, and Sores; cleanse it when you find it obstructed and sluggish in the veins; cleanse it when it is foul—your feelings will tell you when. Keep your blood pure and the health of the system will follow.

**CLARK'S BLOOD MIXTURE** is sold in bottles No. 24, and 112, each sufficient to effect a permanent cure.

in the great majority for long-standing cases, by  
and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the world, or sent  
any address on receipt of 35 or 152 stamps by the Proprietor  
of the LINCOLN and MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG  
COMPANY, LINCOLN. (TRADE MARK, "BLOOD  
MIXTURE.")

CAUTION.—ASK FOR  
**CLARKE'S**  
WORLD-FAMED

**BLOOD MIXTURE**  
AND  
DO NOT BE PERSUADED TO TAKE AN IMITATION





## EXTRAORDINARY CAPTURE OF BURGLARS AT TOTTENHAM.

Thomas Clarke and James Ryan, both of Whitechapel, were charged at Edmonton Petty Sessions on Thursday, the first with burglariously entering the dwelling-house 3, Tottenham-terrace, White Hart-lane, Tottenham, the residence of Mr. Gale, and the other with being an accessory to the commission of a burglary and robbery. Clarke was further charged with breaking and entering the office, 25, Cowcross-street, between the 14th and 21st of December, and stealing therefrom fourteen safe keys, the property of William Gale. The facts are of an extraordinary nature. The police authorities received information, under cover of secrecy, that on a certain day, and at a given hour, between 10 and 11, the residence of Mr. Gale, merchant, in Tottenham-terrace, was to be "cracked"—a term used by thieves for housebreaking, and that four men would be engaged in the affair. It is presumed that the information was given by one of a gang of burglars who had quarrelled with their associates. However, the police were directed to take the matter in hand, and Detective-sergeant Murphy received instructions thereon. With two other officers he went to the locality indicated, and placed his men in advantageous positions outside for watching. Murphy himself entered the house, and hid himself in the dining-room under a table covered with a low hanging cloth. Here he remained for over six hours, and was beginning to think that the whole thing was a hoax, when he heard a noise at the front window of the room in which he was secreted. He had a stick in his possession, and prepared for action. The window was forced, carefully closed, and Clarke was in the apartment in an instant. Murphy at once rushed at him and seized him by the throat, the unexpected attack causing the thief almost to faint. He asked for mercy, and was beginning to treat without violence he would make a clean breast of the entire transaction. He submitted to be handcuffed, and then intimated where his mate was located outside the premises. It appears, also, that he spoke of two of the four who had originally joined in the enterprise having become faint-hearted, and as he said, "turned up the job." Clarke, being rendered incapable of resistance in consequence of the handcuffs, and was beginning to think that he was a fool, and that he had been deceived, Mr. Gale and family were absent from the residence on a visit, the premises being in charge of a man servant, and it is supposed that the gang of burglars ascertained that the dwelling, which contained plate and large quantities of valuables of a portable character, was in the care of a single individual. Sergeant Murphy gave evidence to the above effect, and Mr. V. Gale said he was a small shop proprietor, and son of the occupier of 3, Tottenham-terrace. Witness resided in town. About 5.15 on the morning of the 21st he received information that his father's house was to be broken open, and he went to the Tottenham Police Station, and stated what had come to his knowledge. He then returned, accompanied by Detective-sergeant Murphy and two other officers, and they proceeded themselves in a downstairs room at 3, Tottenham-terrace. After waiting there until a quarter past two, they heard a noise like a knock at the front door, afterwards a rattling of a venetian blind, and felt a current of air through the house. In a short time Murphy opened the door, and went into the front room. Witness followed immediately behind, and saw the prisoner, Clarke, standing in a corner of the apartment. Clarke asked him if there was any one else in his company, and from his reply witness and one of the officers rushed out by the back door, but found Ryan in charge of Police-constable 229 N. Clarke had worked for witness's father.—Prosecutor's wife said Clarke had been employed by her husband on many occasions, and she had seen the prisoners together several times. She distinctly recognised Ryan.—Police-constable 229 N. said when he hurried from the house he found Ryan outside. Witness (who was in plain clothes) went up to him and asked if he could direct him to Edmonton, and he pointed down White Hart-lane, remarking, "I think that's the way." Witness then said, "I am a police officer. Your friend wants you," and he replied, "Is that the kind of friends he has come to see?"—As to the second case, it was alleged that the office at Cowcross-street (where safes were sold) had been entered by a person climbing the wall at the back and getting through the window. Clarke, it was said, knew where the keys were kept, having been employed by the proprietor of the establishment, and one key of fourteen different safes had been purloined.—Both prisoners were committed for trial.

### A PENTONVILLE RUFFIAN.

John Sharper, 27, a basket-maker, of 101, White Lion-street, Islington, was charged, at the Clerkenwell Police Court on Thursday, with being concerned with another man not in custody in assaulting William Wallace, and attempting to steal his watch. The prosecutor, a postman, said that morning he was walking down Pentonville-road, when Sharper and another man accosted him, and pointing to a coffee-stall some distance off, prisoner said, "Will you treat us to a cup of coffee?" Prosecutor replied in the affirmative; but, on reaching the stall, the men declined to have anything to drink, and requested the prosecutor to accompany them down the road. After talking with the man for some little distance Sharper threw him violently to the ground and made a snatch at his watch-chain, but failed to secure his watch. Prosecutor then regained his feet, but was knocked again to the ground by Sharper, and becoming somewhat alarmed at his position he offered prisoner 2s. 6d. to let him go. Sharper accepted the money, and the prosecutor ran off. The prisoner, however, continued to follow him, but some distance off. The prosecutor subsequently met a police officer, and informed him of what had occurred.—Police-constable Selby, 213 G, said that he was on duty shortly before one o'clock on Thursday morning in Pentonville-road, when he saw prosecutor running and prisoner following. From what prosecutor told him he pursued Sharper and succeeded in capturing him. The prisoner, however, "ducked" and escaped, but after a short chase witness recaptured him. Prosecutor then came up and said (pointing to prisoner), "That is the man that tried to steal my watch."—Walter Tyrrell, a warder at Pentonville Prison, said he was present in September, 1884, at the Central Criminal Court when Sharper was sentenced to five years' penal servitude and twenty lashes with the "cat" for highway robbery with violence after previous convictions. The prisoner was connected with one of the most desperate gangs that infested Clerkenwell.—Mr. Horace Smith committed Sharper for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

### DEATH FROM POISONING AT SOUTHALL.

An inquest was held at Southall on Thursday by Dr. Diplock, coroner for West Middlesex, into the circumstances attending the death of Sophia Manley, aged 23 years, of Warwick Cottage, Warwick-road, Ealing, who succumbed to the effect of poison while on a visit to her sister at 15, Southall-place, Southall, on Monday.—The deceased, who suffered from epileptic fits, was in good spirits on Sunday evening and retired about half-past eleven. The same night her sister found her in her bed-room ill and vomiting. Dr. Windle, who was sent for about one o'clock, found the woman insensible, her muscles rigid, and with signs of poisoning. She died soon afterwards. A post mortem examination revealed the fact that death was caused by cyanide of potassium, and a bottle containing that poison was found in the deceased's bed-room. The doctor, moreover, discovered the woman to have been pregnant six months.—The jury returned a verdict of suicide without any sound mind.

The measles epidemic still continues in the Potteries, and the board schools have been closed for nearly three months.

## BURNING OF A MISSISSIPPI STEAMBOAT.

**Terrible Scene—Men Roasted to Death.**

The steamer John Hanna has been burned with the loss of about twenty lives. The accounts are, says a New York correspondent, full of horrible details. The steamer was near Plaquemine, about 100 miles above New Orleans, when the fire was discovered. It was then about midnight, and most of the passengers were asleep. The fire was discovered by a negro boatman, who gave the alarm. The steamer was laden with cotton, which was in a very dry condition, and the flames spread with fearful rapidity. They sprang from bale to bale like flashes of lightning, and shot up through the cabin and over the sides, enveloping the entire boat. The alarm had been sounded at the first sight of the fire, the whistle blown and the bells rung, but within three minutes of its discovery the boat was a sheet of flame from stem to stern. The scene that ensued was terrible in the extreme. Men yelled and ran about the deck like maniacs; others, screaming at the top of their voices, threw themselves into the river. The chief clerk, Mr. Powell, went to every door, and made certain that the passengers and hands were awake, and urged them to hurry to the bow of the boat before they were cut off. They did so, but were thrown into confusion by the darkness of the night, the blinding smoke, and their own fright. The smoke was so

thick and suffocating from the high piles of burning cotton that a number of persons, in trying to force their way to the bow, were overcome by it, and fell suffocated on the deck, where they probably died before the flames reached them or the boat sank. In the meantime the crew were fighting the flames as best they could, but had little effect on the pumps, were worked, but had little effect on the flames. The flames soon reached the engine room, bursting the steam-pipes, and releasing great volumes of steam, that severely scalded several of the men, who were driven from the room. The pilot had headed the steamer for shore as soon as the alarm sounded. As she had a full head of steam on at the time, she was into the bank in two or three minutes. Then the pilot jumped into the river, swam ashore. The captain, crew, and passengers had fought their way to the bow of the boat, getting scorched faces and bruised limbs. The majority of them sprang from the boat when she was about ten yards from the shore, and the moment she touched the rest leaped into the mud or water. The steamer rested for a moment aground and then swung around, drifting down stream and turning up the bank. The flames were now on the upper portion of the boat, and the prisoners were finally protected from the fire by means of a box, and was dragged ashore with ropes. It was too late, however; he had suffered too serious injuries, and although he received medical care at once he died before he reached Plaquemine. Bob Smith had figured in several steamboat accidents, and to his courage in sticking to his post on his own burning steamer, the last moment was due to the saving of many lives from that vessel. After the chief clerk had aroused every person on the vessel he returned to the bow, but his escape there was cut off. As a last resort he sprang into the water, and although he could not swim, managed in some way to get on to a floating bale of cotton, but two deck hands jumped on to the bale also and turned it over. Powell fell into the water and was drowned. His body was found in the river twenty miles below Plaquemine that next morning. John Crofton, the carpenter, was in the upper portion of the boat struggling to get near the bow. The flames were twisting and sweeping all about him and soon enveloped him. He fell and was burned to death before the eyes of the people, who were not able to render him any help. Others met with their death while forcing their way to the bow, being overcome by the smoke, or being burned to death while fast in the mud, or drowned. The boat was about fifteen yards from the shore when the intense heat compelled almost all the crew to spring from her. Some reached the shore, and tried to climb the steep, muddy, and slippery levee, but were caught by the flames before they could do so. Others clung to bales of cotton in the river, but in many instances the bales floated against the burning vessel, and the occupants were either scalded to death or compelled to let go and drop into the water, and drown. It is believed that the fire was due to a careless smoker, who threw a cigarette among the cotton. The steamer is valued at \$18,000, and the cargo at \$12,000. Both are a total loss.

### Slowly Roasted to Death

by the intense heat from the burning boat. They buried their faces and hands into the soft mud to protect themselves, and appealed to the people on shore to come to their assistance. This, however, was impossible. The captain was finally protected from the fire by means of a box, and was dragged ashore with ropes. It was too late, however; he had suffered too serious injuries, and although he received medical care at once he died before he reached Plaquemine. Bob Smith had figured in several steamboat accidents, and to his courage in sticking to his post on his own burning steamer, the last moment was due to the saving of many lives from that vessel. After the chief clerk had aroused every person on the vessel he returned to the bow, but his escape there was cut off. As a last resort he sprang into the water, and although he could not swim, managed in some way to get on to a floating bale of cotton, but two deck hands jumped on to the bale also and turned it over. Powell fell into the water and was drowned. His body was found in the river twenty miles below Plaquemine that next morning. John Crofton, the carpenter, was in the upper portion of the boat struggling to get near the bow. The flames were twisting and sweeping all about him and soon enveloped him. He fell and was burned to death before the eyes of the people, who were not able to render him any help. Others met with their death while forcing their way to the bow, being overcome by the smoke, or being burned to death while fast in the mud, or drowned. The boat was about fifteen yards from the shore when the intense heat compelled almost all the crew to spring from her. Some reached the shore, and tried to climb the steep, muddy, and slippery levee, but were caught by the flames before they could do so. Others clung to bales of cotton in the river, but in many instances the bales floated against the burning vessel, and the occupants were either scalded to death or compelled to let go and drop into the water, and drown. It is believed that the fire was due to a careless smoker, who threw a cigarette among the cotton. The steamer is valued at \$18,000, and the cargo at \$12,000. Both are a total loss.

### Jim Givens's Heroism.

The latest reports of the disaster give an account of a remarkable deed of heroism performed by a deck hand named Jim Givens. When the burning steamer touched the bank and bounded away, the pilot left the wheel and sprang overboard. Givens quickly realised that the salvation of all on board depended upon the steamer being brought back to the bank. The pilot-house was surrounded by flames, but the brave fellow sprang to the wheel and brought the steamer's head again to the bank, and in order to keep her there, made the wheel rest in proper position. The fire swept over the pilot-house, and he was imprisoned by the flames. To escape it was necessary to push through a wall of fire. He made a dash for the side of the vessel, and, although frightfully burned, succeeded in reaching it. With his clothing all ablaze he jumped into the river, and struggled to the bank, where he was pulled ashore by willing hands in a horribly burnt and exhausted state. He died after indescribable agony a few hours later. The case is a striking parallel to that of Jim Bludsoe, the hero of John Hay's poem, who died at the helm of a Mississippi steamer which was on fire, in accordance with his vow to "hold her nose again the bank till the last galoot's assore."

### ALLEGED WIFE MURDER AT SUNDERLAND.

An inquest was held at Sunderland on Thursday concerning the death of Jane Riggs, aged 35 years, of William Riggs, who is now in custody charged with causing her death. The evidence showed that in August the accused got two months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife, and that on the 10th inst. some words arose between them about this. When the woman was found she was a mass of bruises and wounds, and she died on the 16th inst.—The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against William Riggs.

### ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN.

At the Town Hall, Pontefract, on Thursday, Walter Bright, 17, farm servant, who comes from Great Burdfield, Essex, was charged with attempting to wreck a train on the Swinton and Knottingley line of railway, with intent to endanger the lives of passengers, on the 15th inst. On the morning in question an engine-driver proceeding to York observed an iron chair on the parallel line of rails. He gave information to this at Pontefract, and the obstruction was removed just before a Great Northern passenger train came up. The prisoner was working in a turnip field near, and his footprints corresponded with those found near the rails.—The prisoner, who pleaded that he was innocent, was committed for trial.

At Halifax on Friday, Harcourt Jackson, late cashier of the Halifax Flour Society, was committed to the sessions on a charge of embezzling the sum of £182 17s. 4d., the money of the society. A cheque for that sum was paid by Messrs. Proctor and Sons, of Brunswick-street, Liverpool, and was said to have been received by the prisoner and not accounted for.

## HOLIDAY CHARGES AT THE POLICE-COURTS.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court on Thursday, the list placed before Mr. Newton comprised only one case of which fourteen prisoners were drunk and disorderly and one of attempted suicide. This is about the average number for the Christmas bank holiday at this court, notwithstanding its close proximity to several places of entertainment, and the fact that a large working class population is resident in the neighbourhood.—Mr. Justice, at the Westminster Police Court, had a list of twenty-three prisoners to dispose of, and of these thirteen were charged with drunkenness, four assaults, and five felonies.—At the South-west Police Court, Mr. Marshall had only eighteen night charges to dispose of, consisting of charges of drunkenness, assaults, &c. There was no case of felony.—At the Hampstead Police Court on Thursday morning there was only one holiday charge, and at the Highgate Police Court there was no case of any kind.—Mr. Paget, at the Mannersthorpe Police Court on Thursday, had a list of twenty charges placed before him, irrespective of the remands, nearly all arising out of the Christmas holidays.—At the Wandsworth Police Court, fifteen charges came before Mr. Biron, Q.C., all of them being of a trivial nature.—Nineteen cases were heard at the Dalston Police Court, and Mr. Montgomery Williams expressed a hope that the defendants and others would take warning and behave themselves better in the New Year.—Only twenty-three charges were heard by Mr. Bushby at Worship-street Police Court; ten of these were cases of drunkenness, and the majority were let off with fines of 1s. There were a few cases of assault, and in one instance a man named Henry Foster, aged 21, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, for striking Charlotte Miller, a flower-maker.—There were twenty-three charges for hearing before Mr. Horace Smith at the Clerkenwell court on Thursday. This was above the average for Thursdays. Eighteen of the charges consisted of drunkenness and assault, and five were felonies.

### FOOLING WITH A REVOLVER.

Oswald E. Godfrey, 21, a paperhanger, of Douglas-road, West Hampstead, was charged at Marylebone Police Court on Wednesday with being drunk and presenting a fire-chambered revolver at George Lewington, of Sandcombe Villa, West Hampstead, at the Earl of Derby public-house, High-road, Kilburn.—The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that on the afternoon of Monday last the prosecutor and his brother were in the Earl of Derby public-house, when the prisoner came across to the prosecutor and accused him of being an accessory to the stealing of his (prisoner's) watch. The prisoner was then taken to the Earl of Derby public-house, where he was seen by the prosecutor and his brother, and the prisoner suddenly pulled something out of an inside pocket of his overcoat, and pushed it against his (prisoner's) face. There was a cry of "He has got a revolver," which the landlord happened to hear, and he jumped over the bar and knocked the prisoner down, the revolver falling from his hand and rolling away. The landlord then took possession of the firearm, and the prisoner left the house. Information was given to the police, and Sergeant Mitchell, X Division, called at the public-house and took charge of the revolver. At the station he examined it, and found it to be a formidable-looking weapon, but it contained no cartridges. Half an hour afterwards the sergeant was proceeding along the high road, when he met the prisoner, who was carrying a bag. The prisoner was searched, and on him was found a pocket-watch showing that he himself had pawned the watch which he accused Lewington of having assisted in obtaining from him.—The prisoner, in his defence, said that it being holiday time he had rather too much to drink, but he had no intention of doing any one any harm with the revolver. He had put it into his pocket for the purpose of selling it.—Mr. De Rutzen, having examined the firearm, said that the prisoner admitted being drunk and, consequently, he (the magistrate) considered that he had been guilty of the worst form of riotous conduct in drawing and presenting such an implement at a man. He sentenced him to three weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour.—Later in the day the prisoner's employer applied to the magistrate to alter his decision. He asked him that during the fireman's search, the prisoner was searched, and on him was found a pocket-watch showing that he himself had pawned the watch which he accused Lewington of having assisted in obtaining from him.—The prisoner, in his defence, said that it being holiday time he had rather too much to drink, but he had no intention of doing any one any harm with the revolver. 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